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A History of the  
California Council of the Blind  
1934 - 1969

By  
Perry Sundquist

Published by the California Council of the Blind, Inc.  
205 South Western Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90004

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Perhaps few persons are better equipped to write the history of the California Council of the Blind than Perry Sundquist. He attended the California School for the Blind from 1918 to 1922 and was one of Dr. Newel Perry's "boys." Dr. Perry founded the Council in 1934 and Perry was one of the persons present at the organizational meeting. He has been a dedicated member of the Council ever since.

Perry Sundquist was Secretary of the Los Angeles County Club of Adult Blind from 1930 to 1935 and President of the Club in 1938. From 1934 to 1938 he was Vice President of the California Council of the Blind. Sundquist was Vice President of the National Federation of the Blind from 1961 to 1962 when he became President until July, 1962 and has since served continuously as a member of the Executive Committee of the Federation. He was one of the oldest and closest friends of the late Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, Founder of the National Federation of the Blind and a leader in the Council from 1934 until his death in 1968.

Perry Sundquist conducted a Census and Economic Survey of the Blind in California in 1935 for the State Department of Education. From 1936 to 1941 he was Executive Secretary of the American Brotherhood for the Blind. Sundquist served as Chief of the Division for the Blind, California State Department of Social Welfare from June, 1941 until his retirement from state service in June of 1968.

In 1959 Perry received the Newel Perry Award for distinguished service in blind welfare from the National Federation of the Blind, and in 1964 he received the Citation of the California Council of the Blind for his work in the field. In 1962 and 1963 he was awarded Honorary Membership in the California Optometric Association. Perry has actively participated through the National Federation of the Blind in helping many other states to improve their Aid to the Blind programs over the years. During his own State service in California, Perry has witnessed the growth of the Aid to the Blind programs in this State to a point of development unequaled anywhere in the Nation.

Perry Sundquist was appointed Editor of the Braille Monitor, the monthly publication of the National Federation of the Blind, in April, 1968 and in July, 1968 he joined the staff of the American Brotherhood for the Blind as a part-time Welfare Consultant.

Anthony G. Mannino, President  
California Council of the Blind

Los Angeles, California  
October 1969

## INTRODUCTION

How does one discuss the beginnings, achievements, and promise of a great social movement? Certainly one must recount the facts, aided by a great deal of source material. Yet, in addition to and far more important than the coldly marshaled facts and listed achievements, are the persons who brought them all about.

The California Council of the Blind is a "grass roots" movement of blind men and women from San Diego to Shasta and from the Sierras to the Sea. These are the countless and unnamed heroes who captured the dream of self-organization and thus translated hopes into realities—not for themselves but for their fellow blind citizens and for the sightless boys and girls, men and women, who will come after them.

It is hoped that the history which follows has captured something of that dream which motivated these human beings to unite under the banner of the California Council of the Blind and do great things.





DR. NEWEL PERRY - FOUNDER

Long-time President of the California Council of the Blind  
Leader and Teacher of the Blind





DR. JACOBUS tenBROEK





PERRY SUNDQUIST







ANTHONY G. MANNINO







JAMES MCGINNIS





LAWRENCE MARCELINO



## THIS IS THE STORY OF THE BLIND WHO LEAD THE BLIND

It all began more than seventy years ago when Newel Perry was a student at the California School for the Blind in Berkeley. In 1898 he founded the California Alumni Association of Self-Supporting Blind. This was the forerunner of the California Council of the Blind and was formed by Newel Perry and a handful of hardy colleagues expressly to help blind people "to escape defeatism and to achieve normal membership in society."

Dr. Perry was a remarkable teacher and a great leader of his fellow blind. After graduation from the University of California and obtaining a Ph.D. in mathematics in Germany, Newel Perry returned to this country in 1902. He almost starved in New York City for ten long years while he vainly sought to secure a teaching position, finding every college door closed because he was blind. Thus he knew personally from his early youth the tremendous economic handicap of blindness. Finally, in 1912, Dr. Perry became Director of Advanced Studies at the California School for the Blind and in that capacity, because of his personality as a great leader and teacher, indelibly stamped the character of a remarkable group of blind students who attended the School from 1912 until his retirement in 1947. By far the most distinguished of his many "boys" during this span of thirty-five years was Jacobus tenBroek, destined to become a great scholar and the leader of both the National Federation of the Blind and the International Federation of the Blind.

At an age when most youngsters talk about being movie stars or firemen or ball players, Dr. Perry's "boys and girls" were seriously trying to decide how to earn even a most modest living when they left school, so bleak was the economic picture facing most blind persons in those days. Even those children just learning to read Braille would bring to class stories of what they called "breakthroughs" of the blind into the sighted business world.

When a graduate wrote to Dr. Perry about a new position, he would share the good news with his pupils. In his letter of congratulations to the successful graduate he was sure to add: "If you perform well, your co-workers will spread the news and so bring home to people the fact that we blind make good staff additions. By the same token, if you fail, they'll say: 'He's blind. We should never have hired him in the first place.' " So many of his former students informed Dr. Perry of their successes and failures that he became an unofficial job clearing house. He received so many requests for help from former pupils in search for jobs that Dr. Perry decided he must expand the California Alumni Association of Self-Supporting Blind into an organization of blind men and women which would be statewide in character and could exert local influence in opening up economic opportunities for the blind. For ten years, from 1924 to 1934, he trudged up and down the State, inducing all blind persons he could find to form local county clubs of adult blind.

The California Council of the Blind was founded in 1934 by a small group of blind men and women and a handful of sighted persons genuinely interested in working with the blind. The Council's aims and objectives through the intervening thirty-five years have been enlarged and advanced, though its principles remain basically the same. The efforts of the



organization are directed toward dispelling the many misconceptions concerning blindness; seeking a more effective vocational rehabilitation; promoting self-care and a better standard of living for the elderly blind; furnishing information of vital interest to the blind pertaining to laws and regulations affecting them; opening up economic opportunities so that qualified blind persons may have jobs; and developing an outstanding program of Aid to the Blind by making it an instrument to effectively advance the physical, social, and economic well-being of needy blind persons.

Perhaps the greatest achievement of the California Council of the Blind has been the fact that it has inspired blind men and women to go forth to the corners of the State and the Nation, dedicated to advancing the cause of the blind. The many achievements of the Council have rested upon a firm foundation of self-organization by the blind themselves. The sense of common cause, the spirit of collaborative effort in seeking solutions to the problems of blindness, have marked the Council's every step along the way.

The problems of the blind are not individual and cannot separately be solved nor singlehandedly can blind persons oppose and hope to convert the power of government to the solution of their problems. The blind of California, through their Council, have come to realize the value of organization and collective action, have seen the need to build for themselves the machinery to unify their efforts and galvanize their energies.

Underlying the many activities and accomplishments of the Council has been a philosophy of the blind in relation to society which is enlightened, optimistic and deeply rooted in those traditional principles of American democracy. The Council has taught a great many blind persons new attitudes toward their blindness, toward their problems as blind persons, and toward the sighted world.

The Council has had a profound influence upon the public, the sighted world, for through its work has come to be seen ever more clearly the ability to see the blind as neighbors, not as outcasts; as equal partners, not as dependent wards; as normal human beings, not as mental incompetents. In short, the public is slowly but surely coming to look upon blind men and women as just ordinary individuals like themselves, with the same hopes and aspirations, the same virtues and failings.

The Council has been successful in extending to the blind of the entire Nation its own genius for organizational development and accomplishment. The Council's crusade has been transposed from the State to the national scene through the medium of its affiliation with the National Federation of the Blind. It is no accident that in the twenty-nine years of its existence, the National Federation of the Blind has looked to the California Council of the Blind for its presidents for twenty-seven of those years. And now the Council's leadership is being extended to the blind of other countries through the International Federation of the Blind.

One of the most hopeful developments for the Council's future lies in the influx of blind students and other young persons into the ranks. These individuals know only too well

the still formidable hurdles which many will have to clear before becoming established in their own professional careers. They find in the Council a vehicle not only to help themselves but to assist other young blind persons.

Thus the California Council of the Blind represents a pre-eminently successful democratic movement in which blind men and women have taken the lead in their own cause and pointed the way to a new age of individual independence and social integration for all blind persons everywhere.

Today the Council is a nonprofit organization with some fifty-one chapters scattered throughout California. It is comprised almost entirely of blind persons and its officers and executive committee members serve without any compensation whatsoever except the satisfaction of being of service to their fellow blind in this State. The members of the California Council of the Blind--these are the blind who lead the blind.

## BACKGROUND: EARLY ASSOCIATIONS OF THE BLIND

While the organization of blind persons in California did not occur until almost the turn of the century (1898), organizations of the blind have existed in one form or another for many hundreds, possibly thousands, of years. Perhaps the earliest record of their existence comes, rather suprisingly, from the Orient; the blind paupers of China appear to have banded together for mutual protection nearly a millenium ago, and subsequently other associations and guilds composed exclusively of blind persons grew up to achieve full legal and social status with their sighted brethren. But it was in Europe, during the middle ages, that the independent guilds and brotherhoods of the blind were most highly organized and successful in their purpose.

It was not until the final quarter of the nineteenth century that voluntary associations of blind people began to take shape in this country in the form of local and specialized groups. One of the first on record was the Friedland Union of Philadelphia, formed in 1871; six years later came the New York Blind Aid Association, also composed predominantly of sightless members. By the 1890's there were a number of such groups across the country, many of them associations of the alumni of the State School for the Blind.

While few of the early associations among the blind were prepared to press for the goals of normality and equality, Dr. Perry's California Alumni Association of the Blind set the precedent and pointed the direction in which these groups were gradually to evolve. Over the next decades local organizations of blind men and women within various states joined forces in statewide associations in order, among other things, to present their case before the legislatures. Some of these state groups, by the mid-1930's, were: in Illinois, the Central Committee of the Blind of Illinois; in Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Federation of the Blind; in Wisconsin, the Badger Association of the Blind; and in Ohio, the Mutual Federation of the Blind, and in California, the California Council of the Blind.

The evolving purpose of the local and state associations of the blind in these years was fundamentally the same as that which once had animated the medieval "free brotherhoods": collective self-expression, mutual support, and the desire to prove to the wider public the capacity of blind citizens to lead normal lives and govern their own affairs.

Moreover, within these organizations were incubating the more practical objectives which were to find full expression in the national movement of the blind. Among them were the vision of full and open employment of blind persons in the main stream of competitive pursuits; programs of public aid providing the incentives needed to enable the blind to achieve self-support, and vocational rehabilitation programs geared to individual talent and ability rather than to the stereotyped trades of the workhouse and the workshop.

Before the outbreak of the great depression in the 1930's, social provisions for the blind in the United States were generally limited to state and county programs. But with the



vast increase of poverty and unemployment during the depression- and notably with the passage of the Federal Social Security Act in 1935--public welfare became a national concern, and with it the distinctive needs and problems of blind Americans.

In the years following the enactment of social security, with its special title governing public assistance to the blind, it became more and more apparent to the scattered organization of the blind across the land that federal support for their state programs was not an unmixed blessing. While the Act injected new energies and new revenues into the old programs, it also introduced a battery of conditions and requirements which often bound the blind recipient more tightly than ever in dependency and red tape. In short, the expansion of public aid from the states to the national level did not eliminate the evils of the traditional system--it only made them national.

The negative side of the federal assumption of responsibility for welfare came to be felt most sharply under the 1939 amendments to the Social Security Act. These changes required that under any state program for the blind to which federal funds were contributed all the income and resources of the blind recipient must be counted in fixing the amount of aid grant, if any. What this meant in fact was that a basic goal for which the blind had been striving--the exemption of reasonable amounts of income as an incentive to self-support--was to be eliminated by federal edict.

In various ways during the depression years the center of gravity in public welfare was shifting rapidly from the state capitals to the nation's capital. It was now Congress, along with the White House, which took the decisive steps forward or backward in the fields of welfare aid, vocational rehabilitation, public health, disability insurance, sheltered workshops, and a host of related services directly affecting the lives and livelihoods of blind persons.

Inevitably, the nationalizing of welfare led to the nationalizing of the organized blind movement. Thus it was that the National Federation of the Blind was formed in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania in 1940.

## FOUNDING OF THE COUNCIL

On October 6, 1934, a group of 29 persons met in Fresno to consider the formation of a California Council for the Blind. The plan for such an organization originated with Mrs. Kathleen Michael, then Chief of the Division for the Blind in the State Department of Social Welfare. Her plan was to form a group in which the sighted members would predominate but the blind would have some representation. Of the 29 persons present, 16 were blind persons and 13 sighted persons. The blind members had come at the insistence of Dr. Newel Perry, Director of Advanced Studies at the California School for the Blind and himself the blind leader of the blind at that time. The blind persons represented various organizations of the blind up and down the State which Dr. Perry had been organizing during the previous ten years. Most of the sighted persons present were engaged in work for the blind in the State and had held several preliminary meetings among themselves to discuss the formation of a council.

It was the late Professor Jacobus tenBroek, one of Dr. Perry's "boys," who master-minded and battled through the substitution of the adopted Article 1, Section 1 of the By-Laws of the newly-formed organization and which gave the blind the majority on the original Council by adding representatives of two additional organizations of the blind to the roster. This majority led to the election of Dr. Perry as the first president, a post which he held until his retirement from the position in 1953.

Following are the Minutes of that historic organizational meeting:

"A meeting of the group interested in the welfare of the blind was held in the Jade Room of the Hotel Fresno, at Fresno, on Saturday, October 6, 1934. The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Mrs. Kathleen Michael, at 10:15 a.m. The following persons were present:

Mrs. Kathleen Michael (Chief of the Division for the Blind)

Mr. J. R. Lewarton (blind representative of the Long Beach area)

Mr. H. D. Hicker (Chief of the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation)

Mr. J. Robert Atkinson (Founder and Director of the Braille Institute of America, Los Angeles, with Mrs. Atkinson)

Miss Annette Williams (blind representative of the Oakland area)

Mr. Reginald White (blind representative of the San Luis Obispo area)

Dr. Newel Perry (Director of Advanced Studies, California School for the Blind)

Miss Dorothy Glass (blind representative of the mountain area)

Mr. Joseph M. Kelley (Superintendent of the State Industrial Home for the Adult Blind, Oakland, with Mrs. Kelley)

Dr. Thomas F. Madden (Fresno physician, representing the Lions Clubs)

Mr. J. tenBroek (blind college student at Berkeley)

Dr. W. R. Groshell (blind osteopath, representing the blind of the Los Angeles area)

Mr. James McCormick (blind representative from the Los Angeles area)

Mr. Franklin Dean (blind representative of the American Brotherhood for the Blind, Los Angeles)

Mr. Stanley Vosper (blind representative from the Long Beach area)

Mr. H. O. Porter (blind representative from the Los Angeles area)

Miss Gladys Conley (secretary to Mrs. Michael)

Mrs. Mary Carroll (home teacher of the adult blind, Oakland)

Mr. Perry Sundquist (partially blind representative from the Los Angeles area)

Mr. Alfred Kloess (blind teacher in the Los Angeles City Schools)

Mr. Orville Brenner (blind representative from the Long Beach area)

Mr. Henry Bindt (blind representative from the Berkeley area)

Miss Bernece McCrary (home teacher of the adult blind, Oakland)

Four representatives from the Fresno Welfare Department

Mrs. Michael gave a short resume of the previous meetings, and asked if the members wished to hear the minutes read.

The motion carried.

The minutes were read and accepted. Mr. White requested the Secretary to read again the minutes of the committee meetings, and the proposed Constitution. The minutes were read, and discussion followed.

Mr. White moved that the Constitution be adopted as read.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Lewarton requested that the Constitution be read again. After some discussion, Miss Glass stated that it would be better to hear it again, also the names proposed for the personnel of the Council. The Constitution and names were read.

Mr. Hicker suggested that the proposed members of the Council be seated together, in order to make voting easier. Mr. Bindt asked how many members were present who were eligible to vote, and would they please identify themselves.

After discussion as to the eligibility of the members, Mr. tenBroek moved, seconded by Dr. Perry, that the names as read be temporarily accepted for the purpose of the adoption of the Constitution.

The motion carried.

Mr. Lewarton asked if a substitute could be sent, in case a representative was unable to attend a meeting. The ruling of the Chair was that the question could not be answered until the Constitution was adopted.

Dr. Groshell moved, seconded by Mr. Dean, that the articles of the Constitution be voted on separately.

The motion carried.

After much discussion, the Constitution was adopted as amended.

The question then arose as to the personnel of the Council. Dr. Perry asked Mr. Sundquist to read the copy of the proposed Article I, Section I, of the By-Laws, Personnel of the Charter Members of the Council.

Mr. Bindt moved, seconded by Dr. Groshell, that the Article be read.

The motion carried.

Mr. Sundquist read the Article, and discussion followed as to the changes in the personnel. It was explained that the total number was the same, but that two changes had been made (substituting two representatives of the blind for two sighted representatives).

Mr. Groshell moved, seconded by Mr. Lewarton, that Article I, Section I, of the By-Laws be adopted.

The motion carried.



Mr. tenBroek stated that the Council was now formed, and the Secretary was asked to read the representatives on the Council, which are as follows:

1. Chief of the Division for the Blind, Department of Social Welfare
2. Chief of the Rehabilitation Bureau, Department of Education
3. Principal of the California School for the Blind
4. Director of Advanced Studies, California School for the Blind
5. Superintendent of the Industrial Home for the Adult Blind, Department of Institutions
6. Supervising Field Worker, Department of Institutions
7. Manager of the State Workshop for the Blind, Los Angeles, Department of Institutions
8. Representative from the State Library, Department of Education
9. Representative of Classes for the Blind, Los Angeles public schools
10. Blind Representative of the Braille Institute of America, Los Angeles
11. Blind Representative from the American Brotherhood of Free Reading for the Blind, Los Angeles
12. A Blind Business Woman, selected by the Executive Committee of the Council
13. District Governor, or representative, of the Lions Clubs
14. Northern Representative from the California Alumni Association of Self-Supporting Blind
15. Blind Representative of the Western Seeing Eye Owners Association
16. Blind Representative of the San Francisco Association for the Blind
17. Blind Representative of the Alameda County Club of Adult Blind
18. Blind Representative of the San Francisco County Club of Adult Blind
19. Blind Representative of the East Bay Club of Blind Women
20. Blind Representative of the San Diego Braille Club

21. Blind Representative of the Los Angeles County Club of Adult Blind
22. Blind Representative of the Los Angeles Braille Club
23. Blind Representative of the Associated Blind of California
24. Blind Representative of the Long Beach Braille Club
25. Southern Representative of the California Alumni Association of Self-Supporting Blind

It was moved by Dr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Kelley, that Miss Dorothy Glass be formally accepted as the member of the Council designated as a Blind Business Woman.

Carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:30, to reconvene at 2 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. by Mrs. Michael, who stated that the first order of business would be to elect the officers for the new Council.

Mrs. Michael stated that as Chairman, she would appoint a nominating committee. Discussion followed.

The motion was made by Mr. tenBroek, seconded by Dr. Groshell, that each officer be nominated from the floor, and that a standing vote be taken.

The motion carried.

The following officers were elected:

Dr. Newel Perry, President  
Mrs. Kathleen Michael, First Vice President  
Mr. Perry Sundquist, Second Vice President  
Mrs. Mary Carroll, Recording Secretary and Treasurer  
Mr. J. Robert Atkinson, Corresponding Secretary

Mr. H. D. Hicker, Mr. J. tenBroek, and Miss Dorothy Glass, were elected to serve on the Executive Committee.

The following committees were appointed:

Mrs. Kathleen Michael, chairman of a committee to study the needs of the non-custodial adult blind;

Mr. H. D. Hicker, chairman of a committee to study the opportunities of remunerative

employment of the blind;

Mr. J. M. Kelley, chairman of a committee to study the necessary essentials for a good home for the adult blind;

Dr. Richard S. French, chairman of a committee to study the needs, real aims, and essentials for a good school for blind children;

Dr. Thomas F. Madden, chairman of a committee on the prevention of blindness.

There will also be a committee on Publicity, and one on Legislation.

A resolution was passed, and the Secretary was instructed to send a note of thanks to Mr. Clayton Smith, for his courtesy and hotel accommodations.

Mr. Atkinson suggested that provision be made for special meetings.

Mr. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mr. Sundquist, that Article I, Section II, of the By-Laws read: Special meetings may be held on call of the President at any time, on ten days written notice.

The motion carried.

The motion was made by Miss Williams, seconded by Mrs. Michael, that the next Council meeting be held on the first Saturday in April, 1935, at Bakersfield.

Carried.

The motion to adjourn was made at 4:15.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ MARY CARROLL  
Recording Secretary"

## PROGRAMS AND PROGRESS

In any discussion of the programs and progress of the California Council of the Blind it is imperative to bear in mind that those programs and that progress profoundly shaped, and were, in turn, even more profoundly determined by the existence of another organization of the blind—the National Federation of the Blind. The Federation was founded in 1940 by Jacobus tenBroek, one of Dr. Newel Perry's "boys" and already a veteran of the legislative wars being waged in his home state by the California Council of the Blind which he had helped organize six years earlier. Dr. Jacobus tenBroek (then a young California college professor of 28 years of age), took the dreams of himself and of his fellow blind in California to the first meeting of the National Federation of the Blind in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and was to write them large across this land and, much later, around the world through the International Federation of the Blind.

The first meeting of the National Federation was also a constitutional convention. The delegates adopted a constitution and by-laws, which have stood ever since without substantial change. The four objectives of the NFB were declared by the convention to be the building of an organization (1) composed of the blind themselves, (2) democratically controlled by the members, (3) administered by officers responsible to and representative of the membership, and (4) free from domination by outside interests. Through twenty-nine years of growth, opposition and turmoil, those founding principles have ever since remained intact. The guiding spirit of the Federation for the first twenty-eight years of its history was Jacobus (Chick) tenBroek. He served also as its active President for twenty-three of those twenty-eight years. Chick tenBroek was a leader in the California Council for the Blind from its founding in 1934 until his death in March of 1968 and was the guiding spirit of the Council from the time of Dr. Perry's retirement in 1953 until 1968.

The Council, in the person of Chick tenBroek, was one of the seven state organizations originally forming the National Federation of the Blind and has been very closely affiliated and identified with the Federation ever since. Another Californian and distinguished leader in the Council served as President of the Federation for four years, Russell Kletzing

In a real sense, the National Federation has become both the expression of its affiliated organizations and their leader. It affords a sounding board for the views of the blind throughout the country. It provides a means whereby the blind are able to develop and articulate programs for the blind. It works to support these programs and to put them into effect. It champions the causes of the blind, both organizational and individual. It carries on research on innumerable problems—legal, social, and economic—affecting the blind. It contributes financial and other aid to projects helpful to the blind. It occupies, on behalf of the blind of America, a place in the world organizations concerned with problems of the sightless. So the Council occupies a similar role in behalf of the blind of California.



## AID TO THE BLIND

One of the Council's earliest, most persistent and most effective lines of action has been its campaign to improve the State's programs of Aid to the Blind—to make them vehicles through which needy blind men and women could achieve self-care and self-support. From the beginning the effort to improve Aid to the Blind involved three principles: First, that the grant should be sufficient not only to meet minimum needs but to allow the blind recipient to proceed from a base of self-respect to the goal of self-sufficiency. In pursuit of this objective the Council has battled ceaselessly for increased aid grants. The struggle is still far from won but the gains are nevertheless impressive and the prospects of future improvements are bright.

The second principle involved in the Council's campaign to improve Aid to the Blind was that of incentive exemptions of income in the interest of self-rehabilitation. If, as was once the case, each dollar earned by the blind person were deducted from his aid grant, he had little incentive to augment his income gradually until it might provide the basis for financial independence. For many, the ascent from dependency to independence could not be made in a single bound. In this battle the Council, as in so many others, found a powerful ally in the National Federation of the Blind. While California had its own non-federal program of Aid to Potentially Blind Residents since 1941, its regular Aid to Needy Blind statute had to follow the federal requirement of taking into account all income and other resources a person might have. In 1950, after a decade of argument and testimony, Congress approved a landmark amendment permitting the first \$50 of earned income to be exempted from the calculation of the aid grant. Exactly ten years later, in 1960, a second breakthrough occurred when Congress authorized an increase in the amount of exempt income under the program for the blind from \$50 to \$85 a month. It was also provided that half of the income in excess of \$85 would be exempted until full self-support should be reached. In passing it is worth noting that this principle, pioneered by the National Federation of the Blind for blind persons, has now been extended in public assistance to the aged and other public assistance programs.

The third principle in the public assistance battle was that personal resources, such as income and property, needed in a plan for self-support should be exempted altogether. This goal was first achieved nationally in 1962, but the exemption was limited to a 12-month period. In 1964 the limit was increased to three years, and at the present time the National Federation and its state affiliates are campaigning for the removal of all such time limitations.

In 1919 the California Legislature enacted a statute which empowered the counties to grant aid to needy blind persons in an amount not to exceed \$150 per year (amended in 1921 to \$180 a year). Since this act was permissive and did not provide for any state financial participation, it was inadequate both from the point of view of the number of blind persons afforded assistance and also the amount of the grant. In fact, as late as 1928, after nine years of operation of the statute, only 735 needy blind persons were receiving assistance in but eight counties of the State.

Realizing that only a small amount of financial assistance was being given to but a fraction of California's needy population, the organized blind sponsored an initiative measure in 1928 which would, if approved by the electorate, amend the Constitution by giving the Legislature the power to grant aid to needy blind persons. On November 6, 1928, this amendment to the Constitution was approved by the people of California by an overwhelming popular vote of almost five to one.

In 1929 the California Legislature, clothed with this constitutional authority, so overwhelmingly voted by the people, enacted Chapter 529 of the Statutes of 1929, which was a comprehensive statute, drafted by the organized blind of the State, granting financial assistance to needy blind persons on a statewide basis with financial responsibility shared equally by the State and counties. Since July, 1936, the Federal Government has participated in the financing of the Aid to Needy Blind program under the provisions of Title X of the Social Security Act.

All of the provisions of the original act of 1929 and of the many liberalizing amendments subsequently made thereto, were designed to effectuate the threefold purpose of relieving blind persons from the distress of poverty, enlarging the economic opportunities of the blind, and stimulating the blind to greater efforts in achieving self-support.

In order to achieve the extensive rehabilitative objectives which it wished to see accomplished by means of the 1929 act, the Legislature set up in the statute itself standards which defined just what constituted "need" and just who were "needy blind persons" in order to provide a decent amount of financial assistance to every needy blind person. The act provided an initial zone of security in the form of exempt income and property and, later, a "floor" to relief.

The original act of 1929 provided for exempt income of \$400 a year. The amount of the grant was determined by the budgetary deficiency method with a ceiling of \$50 a month. In 1941 the Aid to Needy Blind Law was amended to bring it into conformity with recent amendments to Title X of the Social Security Act which required the consideration of all income and resources in determining the amount of the grant, that is, the elimination of the exempt-income provision. However, the amendments also provided that any income which the recipient might possess could be used to the extent necessary to meet any special needs he might have.

While the Aid to the Blind Act has been amended at almost every session of the Legislature since its original passage in 1929, there are several major amendments which should be noted and which have occurred during the 40 years of its existence. In 1936 the residence requirement was reduced from ten years to five out of the last nine years for those persons who became blind while not residents of California, and in 1963 duration of residence was repealed. In 1937 an amendment to the law abolished the budgetary deficiency method of computing the amount of aid to be received by a blind person and instead, a flat grant of \$50 a month was written into the law, thus making the maximum



grant both the minimum and the maximum.. Since that time the amount of the grant has gradually been increased to the present \$145.50 with a maximum of \$195.50. In 1950 provision was made for the establishment of bureau for the the blind in the larger counties to raise the whole level of administration of Aid to the Blind, one of the most vitally important provisions of the statute. In 1957 the Public Assistance Medical Care program was enacted, with the provisions extended to blind recipients in need of medical care.

In 1961 four significant changes were made in the laws--the so-called escalator provision was written into the statutes whereby the amount of aid would be increased each year to reflect increases in the cost-of-living; the responsibility of relatives provisions were repealed outright; provision was made for the payment of the costs of special needs up to \$50 a month when actual need exceeded the minimum; and the value of property used as a home was excluded in determining property holdings.

In 1963 further strides were made by the Legislature in program development through shortening the application process repeal of durational residence, the provision for hospital and nursing home care on a uniform basis for all blind recipients irrespective of age, an additional grant for attendant services, elimination of the use and occupancy value of homes, and significant increases in property and exempt income allowances as further incentives for those seeking self-support.

Finally, in 1965 (effective March 1, 1966) the California Medical Assistance Program was established, providing private hospitalization and a wide range of medical care to all recipients of public assistance.

The social welfare programs for the blind are geared to encourage the rehabilitation of sightless men and women by assisting them to achieve physical, social and economic adjustments--thus reducing dependency and enriching the lives of these persons through fuller integration into society. These objectives are spelled out in the statutes.

Rehabilitation in its truest sense may be defined as the restoration of the blind person to the fullest potential for physical, social and economic usefulness of which he is capable. For the past twenty-eight years there has been increasing emphasis on rehabilitative services in the programs for the blind. The Aid to Potentially Self-Supporting Blind Residents program was enacted in 1941 and the Prevention of Blindness program inaugurated in 1945. The requirement for a separate bureau for the blind in every county welfare department having 250 or more Aid to the Blind cases was enacted in 1950 and is an important administrative device to assure more intensive rehabilitative services.

Even though tremendous advances have been achieved in the past 40 years in program development, a great deal more remains to be done to more fully realize the objectives. A modern program of public assistance for the blind not only includes an amount of assistance which is sufficiently adequate to enable the recipient to maintain a standard of living which conserves self-respect, but a grant reinforced with those incentives of exempt income and property which actually encourage the individual to seek to achieve self-maintenance

whenever possible. It also constitutes a plan of aid through which blind persons are helped in meeting their major needs—physical, social, economic. Only when these major needs are met is a blind man free to experience that thrill of adventure without which life itself is apt to become a mere passive existence. Given that freedom for adventure, be he young or old, the blind person can become a dynamic human being and life is full and abundant for him. Much of the tragedy of blindness is thus removed. This kind of public assistance for the blind not only gives help, but hope—and must be the overriding objective of the program.

When in 1941 it became necessary to amend the Aid to Needy Blind law to conform with amendments to the Social Security Act by deleting the exempt income provision, a way was sought whereby those blind persons with the capacity for becoming self-supporting might be encouraged and assisted in working toward that goal. The result was the enactment by the 1941 Legislature of a second program of public assistance for the blind, Aid to Partially Self-supporting Blind Residents, to be financed entirely by state and county funds. This second program resulted from recognition on the part of the Legislature that maintenance alone is not sufficient for those blind persons who have a desire to achieve self-support—that, in addition to providing for the physical necessities of life, these people need encouragement to utilize their productive capacities and that this required the incentive of exempt income, especially from earnings. This program was and has remained over the past twenty-eight years an innovation in that it is a plan of public assistance geared specifically to economic rehabilitation. The amount of exempt income was increased from \$400 a year in 1941 to \$800 in 1945, \$1,000 plus one-half over \$1,000 in 1950, \$1,200 plus one-half over \$1,200 in 1959, and \$1,500 plus one-half over \$1,500 in 1963. Thus California pioneered the now famous “sliding-scale” of exempt income fully ten years before it became a part of the Social Security Act.

Even though in 1960 Title X of the Social Security Act was amended by the Congress to provide for the exemption of \$85 a month, thus permitting this provision to be placed in every state's Aid to the Blind Law, it should be noted that California's Aid to Potentially Self-supporting Blind Residents statute remains a far more effective instrument to assist a needy blind person to achieve economic rehabilitation. This is true because: (1) the annual basis for computing exempt income is preferable to the monthly basis in Aid to the Blind since there is considerable variation in monthly earnings, found particularly in self-employment enterprises; (2) the Aid to Potentially Self-supporting Blind Residents statute exempts income from all sources, not merely from earnings; and (3) the rigid real and personal property limitations imposed by the Federal Government for Aid to the Blind make it difficult for any blind person to achieve self-support from either a business or farm enterprise or from a professional practice, although the 1962 amendments exempting additional income and property for a 12-month period to implement plans for self-support (increased to 36 months in 1964) have alleviated this somewhat.

It is significant that the Congress, in enacting the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, lifted almost bodily from Title X of the Social Security Act the exemption of earnings insofar as Title I and II of the Act are concerned.



The people of the State of California have had some 50 years' experience in dealing with the problem of financial assistance for the blind. During this period of time can be found ample evidence of immense achievement in developing a plan for sightless men and women which more adequately meets their needs. The adequacy of any state's financial assistance program for the blind can be measured in part by two criteria: the total number of persons who are afforded protection through financial assistance, and the amount of the average grant. Judged by these standards, it would seem that California has made more adequate provision for its needy blind residents than most other states.

The effectiveness of any plan of financial assistance for the blind cannot be measured entirely by the number of recipients or the average monthly grant. The program should be administered in a sufficiently realistic manner to actually help blind men and women in their efforts to make their major adjustments in the economic, social, and physical areas. The State Department of Social Welfare, with the enthusiastic cooperation of California's 58 county welfare departments, has for years sought to be helpful in enabling blind persons to effect those physical, economic and social adjustments which are required if the well-being of a sightless individual is to be promoted to the fullest extent.

If California's blind men and women are afforded greater protection through the operation of this state's social welfare programs than are the sightless of most other states, it is attributable very largely to three factors. First, the experience which the people of California have gained over the past 50 years in dealing with the problem. Second, more particularly, the sympathetic and understanding interest which the representatives of the people in the Legislature have at all times displayed in their consideration of the problems of the blind. This intelligent and generous attitude stems from the people as a whole, and is effectively translated into sound legislation by the members of the Legislature who have evolved a plan of financial assistance for the needy blind citizens of this state which gives effective recognition to the fact that a blind person has a greater need because there are additional elements comprising it—a program of public assistance for the blind which has been maintained and strengthened so as to assist the blind person in solving his major problems. Finally, the continuous development of these programs over the years is due to the unremitting interest and efforts of the blind themselves.

While California has made great progress in its Aid to the Blind programs, this program development has been achieved in the sound context of decreasing dependency—physical, social, economic. However, much remains to be done. With the advent of increased emphasis on rendering services in connection with the administration of Aid to the Blind, it is believed that even more significant advances can be made in the area of decreasing dependency in the years which lie immediately ahead. This will be so if those major unmet needs of recipients can be successfully dealt with through a battery of concurrent approaches which may be found to be effective.

## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES--THE DRIVE FOR JOBS

In 1934 when the Council was organized, the condition of the blind in California was one of widespread poverty and all but universal frustration. Thousands who were able and willing to work were without jobs, forced to live on public aid grants. Of those lucky enough to be employed at all, most eked out a starvation wage, as low as five cents an hour, laboring at ancient trades such as chair-caning and broom-making in noncompetitive sheltered workshops--with little hope of ever being transferred out into regular jobs. The very few who held decent positions were for the most part either teachers at the school for the blind or employees of agencies for the blind. Only a token number had been able to secure vending stands under the Randolph-Sheppard Act which was enacted in 1936 to give preference to blind persons in such employment within federal buildings.

Vocational rehabilitation service for the blind was even more ineffective and rudimentary. As for education, only a handful of blind youth were attending colleges and universities; for the vast majority of those who graduated from the school for the blind the prospects of a normal life and livelihood were almost as dismal as they had been a century before. There was only one Field Worker for the Blind (today there are twenty-five); there was no Rehabilitation Worker for the Blind (today there are twenty-seven); there were no teachers for pre-school blind children (today there are six); and there was no Orientation Center for the Blind where newly-blinded men and women could learn essential adjustments to blindness.

The organized blind movement was committed right from its beginning to the task of dissolving all barriers to the acceptance of blind persons in the full range of productive vocations, alike in public service and in private industry, in the teaching profession and the skilled trades. From the beginning the Council adopted a firm position of opposing the use of sheltered workshops as agencies of vocational rehabilitation, and has consistently fought to convert the State Rehabilitation Service into a means of fruitful training, guidance and placement of the blind in normal competitive jobs.

At the same time the Council worked to fortify the public vending stand program, and to extend the governing Randolph-Sheppard Act to place blind vendors not only in federal but in State, county and city buildings as well. Today there are more than 260 such enterprises. The Council has also carried on a continuous struggle to loosen agency controls over stand operators and to give them the maximum possible independence.

Perhaps in no other field has the Council made such phenomenal progress in breaking down the barriers of prejudice as in the field of teaching. When the Council was organized, only a handful of blind teachers were employed at the State School for the Blind. Today upwards of one hundred teachers are serving in the regular classrooms as well as in resource programs.

Although these blind teachers have conclusively proved the ability of the blind to teach, still most school districts in the State refuse to employ them because they are blind.



The high level of performance of blind teachers was confirmed by a survey carried out by the Senate Fact-finding Committee on Education in 1965. Of the forty-five principals who answered the questionnaire from the Legislature, more than ninety percent rated their blind teachers as "good", "excellent", or "superior". Its conclusions were supported by a similar survey carried out by the personnel division of the Los Angeles City School System in 1963—all of this activity urged by the Council in its ceaseless efforts to score a real break-through in the teaching profession for competent blind persons.

In late 1968 the Council appeared before the State Board of Education and appealed to that body to bulwark an affirmative program for blind teacher placement. The Board, with the strong support of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, adopted a resolution urging local school districts to employ qualified and competent blind teachers. The campaign of the Council continues and will be successful in the long run, as evidenced by the tremendous progress already achieved.

The major unsolved problem remains today the ways in which to increase employment opportunities for those blind persons under 65 years of age. Even many of those possessing developed skills and specialized training are denied the chance to participate in economic pursuits. These, along with those requiring training, must remain dependent until economic opportunities for the blind are greatly increased.

It is a discouraging fact of economic reality that generally when physically fit men and women seek jobs and do not find them, physically impaired men and women need not seek at all. When there is a labor surplus, blind workers are not usually hired, however well qualified they may be.

During World War II thousands of blind men and women were employed to perform a vast diversity of activities in the wartime economy—and they demonstrated beyond all doubt their capacity to function productively and successfully in the country's economy. But when the end of the war brought an end to the labor shortage, the majority of these persons were let out.

Unemployment continues as the major domestic problem confronting the United States today. It has been increasing despite the last five years of "recovery." The over-all unemployment rate is 5 percent, while among the teenagers and minority groups it soars to 16 percent. But even among recipients of Aid to the Blind between the ages of 20 and 49 it reaches the fantastic figure of 96.5 percent.

Blindness is one of the most severe physical impairments that a person may experience—affecting freedom of motion, ability to read and write, techniques of daily living, confidence in other senses, leisure-time activities, recreation, physical exercise. Nevertheless, the physical impairments of blindness can be sufficiently overcome by re-learning and re-patterning of activities to permit an independent and satisfying life. However, the social handicap suffered by the blind is far greater than their physical disability. This is the common stereotype of blindness which comes down from antiquity

and persists today—a stereotype which portrays the blind persons as physically helpless and psychologically abnormal. This results too often in excluding the blind from the main channels of economic activity. The primary task of the social worker and the rehabilitation counselor is to overcome this social handicap of blindness by helping to create an environment within society (and within the client) which will be conducive to normal livelihood.

The blind are given little opportunity, even in our present economic system, for contribution to society with the satisfaction it alone can provide. There will probably be even less opportunity in the future unless Herculean efforts are made, since automation and other technological changes are increasingly requiring skilled younger workers.

The grim realities of general and growing unemployment must be faced and yet cannot stifle efforts to enlarge economic opportunities for blind persons. We may have to settle for slower progress but progress we must seek for the chance to work is more than the chance to earn a living—it is the chance to live.

Insofar as blind persons who are not recipients of public assistance are concerned, it is optimistically estimated that in the United States about 33 percent of the blind between the ages of 20 and 65 were employed in 1960, as compared to 63 percent of the total population. This is accounted for by such factors as the following:

1. Blind persons tend to be at the top of this age range—and the higher the age, the lower the rate of employment for both the blind and the sighted.
2. The negative stereotypes held by employers.
3. The lag in the provision of rehabilitative and job-placement services.

Insofar as governmental agencies are concerned with the blind, the most important single service is encompassed by the programs of public assistance—in terms of the number of individuals involved as well as the critical nature of the services provided. Consequently, to the extent that appropriate rehabilitative and training resources are not fully available to these clients, public welfare must provide such services.

There is real need to marshal the efforts of all appropriate public and private agencies in a continuous and coordinated effort to provide blind recipients of public assistance with pre-vocational and vocational training and job placement so that these persons can have an opportunity to engage in meaningful economic activity. For the most part those persons are presently denied the opportunity to participate in economic activity of any kind; and yet it is recognized that a blind person who can do a particular job satisfactorily is not handicapped insofar as that particular job is concerned.

The opportunity to engage in meaningful activity represents many things—job satisfaction, economic security, group associations, community and family respect, and a



priceless sense of contribution to society.

Conversely, lack of opportunity to engage in such meaningful activity creates individual, family, and social problems. Chiefly, it denies to the individual the chance to participate in the main channels of life and thus robs him of the very zest for living. It is recognized that many persons will never be able to return to gainful employment in competitive industry. In such instances there must be accommodation to a lesser goal within the physical, emotional, and vocational capacities. All such persons do have a need and desire to be creative and this may be channeled into such areas as self-help industries, hobbies, or other non-remunerative but yet productive outlets.

It is believed that an "all out" effort to provide more economic opportunities for the blind will require the increased concern and emphasis not only of public welfare agencies, but also equally of the State Department of Rehabilitation and the State Department of Employment—as well as private organizations and agencies serving the blind.

The goal for blind recipients, insofar as public welfare is concerned, is to extend every service necessary to assist these clients in realizing their highest potential of self-sufficiency. To move closer to this goal, public welfare agencies must call upon the coordinated and continuous efforts of all other appropriate public and private agencies whose services can be utilized in helping these clients to achieve physical, social, and economic adjustments.

Public welfare, however, must assume the continuing responsibility of insuring that each of its qualified blind recipients receives the optimum level of services needed to prepare him for employment. Each and every community resource available must be utilized to the maximum extent necessary to accomplish this end. To the extent that other agencies cannot meet the total needs of the blind welfare recipient, public welfare will provide integrated medical, social work, and vocational services to develop a well-rounded rehabilitation program.

The end result will be the permanent placement of as many blind clients as possible in permanent employment or in meaningful activity, thus enriching the lives of these clients and decreasing the expenditure of public funds.

## THE WHITE CANE

Many years ago the Council secured the enactment by the California Legislature of a statute restricting the use of the white cane to persons wholly or partially blind, defined precautionary methods for persons driving motor vehicles near pedestrians with white canes, and spelled out unlawful use of white canes and nonprecautionary conduct of motor vehicle drivers as a misdemeanor. However, as in so many other campaigns, the Council joined forces vigorously with the National Federation to bring the safety of the white cane to the blind of all America.

“A white cane in our society has become one of the symbols of a blind person’s ability to come and go on his own. Its use has promoted courtesy and special consideration for the blind on our streets and highways. To make our people more fully aware of the meaning of the white cane, and of the need for motorists to exercise special care for the blind persons who carry it, Congress, by a joint resolution approved October 6, 1964, has authorized the President to proclaim October 15 of each year as White Cane Safety Day. Now, therefore, I, Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 1964, as White Cane Safety Day.”

That ringing Presidential proclamation marked the climax of a historic campaign by the organized blind to gain recognition by the states and the nation of the rights of blind pedestrians. It was in 1930 that the first state law was passed requiring motorists to stop when a blind person crossed the street with a white cane. Today white cane laws are on the books of many states in the Union, some providing blind persons a legal status in traffic by virtually wiping out the traditional assumption of contributory negligence on the part of blind pedestrians in the event of accident.

“The white cane is therefore a symbol of equality,” said Jacobus tenBroek in a 1960 speech: “And still more it is clearly a sign of mobility. In the routines of daily living as at a deeper social level, the keynote of our way of life is mobility; the capacity to get around, to move at a normal pace in step with the passing parade. In this race, until very recently, the blind were clearly lagging and falling ever farther behind . . . But today the blind of America are catching up. Just as they are gaining social and economic mobility through the expansion of vocational horizons, so they are achieving a new freedom of physical mobility through the expansion of legal opportunities centering upon the White Cane Laws.”

The Governor signed into law in July 1968 the Model White Cane Law (Senate Bill 369) which was sponsored by the California Council of the Blind. The Council viewed this achievement, and rightly so, as a veritable civil rights bill for the blind, the visually handicapped, and the otherwise physically disabled. The new law makes it the policy of the State of California that these persons shall be encouraged and enabled to participate fully in the social and economic life of the State. Calling for the cessation of discrimination on the grounds of disability, the law declares that the blind and disabled have the same right as the able-bodied to “full and free use” of public streets, sidewalks, conveyances, public facilities and places of public accommodation.

In this statute the State calls upon the general citizenry to expect to see blind and disabled persons abroad in the community going to and from the places of their work and or recreation, and to take all necessary precautions to secure their safety. Motorists are required to yield the right-of-way to totally or partially blind persons carrying a predominantly white cane or using a guide dog, and the “driver of any vehicle approaching such pedestrian who fails to yield the right-of-way or to take all reasonable necessary precautions to avoid injury to such blind pedestrian is guilty of a misdemeanor.”

One of the most significant features of the new law is the provision which declares that



it shall be the policy of the State that blind persons, visually handicapped, and otherwise disabled persons shall be employed in the service of the State and its political subdivisions, in the public schools and in all other employment supported in whole or in part by public funds on the same terms and conditions as the able-bodied. Despite various "Hire the Handicapped" advertising campaigns, blind and disabled persons continue to have difficulty in procuring meaningful employment. The enactment of the Model White Cane law should encourage employers to modernize and make equitable their hiring practices.

This measure, conceived and composed by the late Dr. Jacobus tenBroek and Russell Kletzing, the Council's Executive Secretary and General Counsel, places California among the other states which have adopted similar measures and brings it into the twentieth century with respect to the right of the blind and disabled to live in the world. Perhaps no other single piece of legislation would have pleased Dr. tenBroek more than this Model White Cane Law, placing his own State in the group which has enacted this civil rights for the blind statute, one of his most cherished dreams—The Right to Live in the World.

In addition to working for enactments protecting the right of passage by blind pedestrians and their acceptance as full-fledged citizens participating in the social and economic life of their community, the Council has sought in other ways to increase public recognition of the values symbolized by the white cane. In 1947, the National Federation established the third week in May as a period for special concentration of efforts to educate the public concerning the hopes and aspirations of the blind and to ask their support. White Cane Week is a cooperative effort of the National Federation and its affiliates, including the Council. During White Cane Week thousands of envelopes are mailed across the state enclosing a pamphlet emphasizing the ability of the blind to be independent.

"For blind people everywhere," as Dr. tenBroek once said, "the white cane is not a badge of difference—but a token of their equality and integration. And for those who know its history and associations, the white cane is also something more; it is the tangible expression not only of mobility, but of a movement."

## OTHER AREAS OF ACTIVITY

The wide number of the areas of activity in which the Council has labored attests to its broad interests in all phases of life which bear on the problems of blindness. A cursory glance at the subjects of Council resolutions indicates the breadth and depth of interest shown over the years. Special mention should be made, however, of the following Council activities:

The education of young blind children has been of continuous concern. A Conference on Education of the Blind was sponsored by the Council in 1956. Efforts have been made to establish a second residential school for the blind, to be located in Southern California, as well as facilities for the multiple-handicapped blind child. Increased funds for readers for blind college students has been a subject of effective interest. Education of the pre-school

blind child, and his parents, has been sponsored.

The Council has been unflagging in its successful efforts to improve the lot of the blind worker in the sheltered workshops operated by the State and called California Industries for the Blind. Through its efforts wages have been raised, work more evenly stabilized, and many of the fringe benefits enjoyed by state employees secured--sick leave, health insurance and unemployment benefits.

In recent years the Council has given increased attention to the welfare of the vending stand operators, seeking for them many of the same benefits gained for the sheltered workshop employees. It continually seeks to secure for them an enlarged independence in the operation of their own businesses and an expansion of this activity into more public buildings in the State.

Finally, the Council has from time to time made formal evaluations of state services for the blind rendered by the State Departments of Education, Rehabilitation, and Social Welfare. Informal evaluations are carried on more or less continuously through a close scrutiny of regulations issued to implement statutes. Hundreds of appeals to administrative bodies have been undertaken by the Council in behalf of aggrieved blind individuals, thus not only benefitting the individuals concerned but at the same time frequently securing a higher standard of administration of the programs.

On occasion the Council has even had to resort to court action to correct administrative abuses. In late 1968 a suit was instituted against the State Department of Rehabilitation, seeking an injunction to prohibit the department from operating a cafeteria as a training facility and thus depriving a blind operator of long-term remunerative employment. Early in 1969 the Council successfully petitioned the California State Supreme Court to compel the State Department of Social Welfare to figure accurately the amount of the cost-of-living increase so that aged and disabled recipients would receive one dollar more each month in their grants, and Aid to the Blind recipients two dollars more per month. These lawsuits are yet another instance in which three thousand blind persons in fifty chapters work through the Council to improve conditions for all blind Californians.

The Council holds two seminars each year, one in the San Francisco Bay area and the other in the Los Angeles area to discuss current legislative proposals and programs. All affiliated chapters are urged to send delegates to these lively meetings. The Council also frequently holds forums in various areas of the state to enable all of the blind residents to come and ask questions and to discuss problems which they as blind persons are experiencing.

Underlying the many areas of activity of the Council has been a philosophy of the role of the blind in society which is deeply rooted in those traditional principles of American democracy. As Dr. Jacobus tenBroek once put it, the basic propositions which compose that philosophy are these:

(1) The right to work is the right to live. At least this is a proposition about material sustenance. At most, it is a profound psychological, social and perhaps even moral truth. It bespeaks the right of participation in society itself.

(2) The absence of economic opportunity is more than the absence of economic security. It is the disintegration of the personality. It is men living out their lives in social isolation and the atrophy of their productive powers. The curse of blindness is idleness—idleness which confines the blind to the sidelines of life, players warming the bench in the game that all should play.

(3) Blind people are people too. They differ from others only in that they cannot see; They are neither cursed nor blessed; neither psychologically abnormal nor gifted with compensatory powers but only average and ordinary human beings endowed with the normal range of physical, mental, emotional responses and individual eccentricities.

(4) What the blind need and want, therefore, is rehabilitation, not resignation; acceptance, not toleration; brotherhood, not patronage; independence and inter-dependence, not benevolent protection.

## A YOUTHFUL MOVEMENT

From its very beginning, young persons have been active in the Council. Through the years since 1934 they have contributed substantially to the Council's efforts in bringing about changes and improvements in the educational rehabilitation and social welfare programs in California. In fact, the Council was organized by Dr. Newel Perry with the help of several of his "boys", men in their twenties, who continued their interest and efforts down through the years—but that was thirty-five years ago. As the years went by, with the constantly increasing availability of these state services for young persons and newly-blind individuals, the Council found itself in a unique situation. Probably because the newcomers received these services without having had to struggle for them and their lack of awareness of the Council's role in achieving these gains, they were not joining the organization or participating in carrying on the still unfinished tasks. The membership, even in the newly-organized chapters of the Council, was composed largely of adult blind persons, many of advanced years. Those who had worked hard for the Council were either leaving the scene, deeply involved in their own endeavors, getting tired or growing older. At any rate, it became obvious to the leadership that something had to be done to interest the young blind in the Council and bring them into its sphere of activity. They are rightfully the heirs and must some day assume the reins and work of the organization.

With this in mind, when Anthony Mannino became President in 1967 he and his administration began to search out young blind persons in the schools, colleges and the workshops. Many of them were having problems and they found the Council to be a willing and cooperative ally in the solution of their difficulties. Student divisions have been formed



in Southern and Northern California through which members were determined to work on the solution of their mutual problems.

At the Fall Convention of the Council held in October 1968 the Students Division held a special meeting, inviting all other blind students in California to attend. In a climate of real concern for each other, their own educational and vocational programs and for the general welfare of the rest of our blind population, they enthusiastically set to work in joining forces with the Council. At the same time they planned expansion of their membership and structure so that they could include and work with the students in all parts of the state.

The spirit and eagerness of these young persons has fired up the entire Council membership. The present leadership is actively engaged in furthering the sharing of Council responsibilities with the fast growing youth groups within its organization and their progressive membership. The future of the Council looks bright and full of new life and vigor because it is becoming increasingly full of youthful members.

## SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Twice each year hundreds of blind persons from all parts of the State gather at the semi-annual conventions of the California Council of the Blind. As delegates and members of the Council's more than fifty affiliated groups they bring their problems and proposed solutions to be threshed out in the democratic process of free and full discussion and majority vote. It is this rank and file who determine the policies to be followed by the Council and its officers. At each session a number of resolutions are carefully drafted, often vigorously debated, and adopted or rejected. All decisions are arrived at on the open floor of the convention. It is from this broad and democratic base that policies are hammered out and the hopes and dreams of the average blind man and woman back in his or her own local community are translated into realities.

A review of the resolutions adopted by the Council over the past thirty-five years shows the constant aim, expressed in a myriad of individual areas, to achieve security, opportunity, and equality for blind persons everywhere.

The solid foundations for programs of equality for the blind in the sphere of job opportunities can be seen by the many specific California statutes barring discrimination against properly qualified blind persons, statutes guided through successive legislatures by the Council: The right to receive teaching credentials; the right to become a registered social worker; the right to receive a chiropractic license; the right to take civil service examinations; and the right to participate fully in the economic life of the state. These and many other laws have been gradually implemented by the Council through the slow but steady education of the public as to the real capabilities of the blind. It must be noted that many of the requests of the Council, first appearing in resolutions, were ten, fifteen, and even twenty years ahead of the final achievement of the goals through statutory enactment.



It is against this backdrop that one must view the very considerable achievements of the California Council of the Blind over the past thirty-five years. Some of those achievements may be specifically enumerated as follows:

Aid to the Blind: The Council has secured the enactment of statutory provisions which will unquestionably constitute significant milestones in the long history of care for the blind. This group has brought to the needy blind of California a program of Aid to the Blind which constitutes the most comprehensive and adequate plan of public assistance which has yet found its way on to the statute books of any commonwealth. In doing this it has not only benefited needy blind men and women living in this state, but its work has blazed frontiers toward which the rest of the country is even yet but slowly groping. The Council fashioned a system of Aid to the Blind which relieved the distress of poverty, yes, and yet it did far more. It took cognizance of the need of blind persons for achievements on the social as well as on the physical and economic levels. The system permits and encourages the sightless to rehabilitate themselves and to become self-supporting. It clothes the individual recipient with dignity by guaranteeing him a full measure of independence and self-respect in the conduct of his life.

Education of the Blind: The Council has encouraged and prompted the growth of educational facilities for blind boys and girls, both at the California School for the Blind and in the various programs of special education for blind and partially seeing children in the various public school systems throughout the State. It has established, through legislation, a field worker who consults with graduates and former pupils of the School and aids in their placement in industry or in other vocational pursuits.

Reader Service: The Council has expanded the reader service available to students and graduates of the State School for the Blind and other blind students and sponsored reader services administered through public school funds.

Library Services: The Council has encouraged and furthered the expansion of materials available to the blind, including magazines and books in raised types and talking books.

Medical Care Service: The Council has sponsored provisions which give medical care service, in-patient and out-patient, for recipients of Aid to the Blind without any liens taken on property.

Field Rehabilitation Services: The Council has been instrumental in expanding field rehabilitation services for the adult blind designed to assist individuals in their adjustment to the psychological and physical conditions resulting from blindness. Teacher-Counselors offer assistance by counseling and instruction in the home of the blind person in techniques of daily living, mobility, household arts, Braille reading and writing, and typing.

California Orientation Center: The Council was responsible for transforming the State Home for the Blind into a modern California Orientation Center which provides intensive orientation and prevocational training for blind persons who desire to prepare themselves

for useful and remunerative work in trades, professions, private business, private industry, and public service.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services: The Council has encouraged the growth of the staff of Vocational Rehabilitation Services working with the blind so that blind clients can be more adequately served in providing vocational counseling to help work out a suitable employment objective, supervised vocational training and job placement.

Vending Stands: The Council has sponsored state and federal legislation to permit blind persons who are properly licensed to operate vending stands, snack bars, and cafeterias in federal, state, county, and municipal buildings.

Opportunity Work Centers: The Council has helped in the establishment of opportunity work centers for the blind which provide many blind persons the chance to work and thus supplement their income in a variety of activities.

California Industries for the Blind: The Council has sponsored the establishment and expansion of California Industries for the Blind to give employment to blind persons who desire to become independent but are unable to secure suitable remunerative employment in private industry or business. The Council has also secured the protections of disability insurance and unemployment insurance for these workers.

Guide Dogs for the Blind: The Council was instrumental in establishing a State Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind for the purpose of insuring that the guide dogs are adequately trained and that their owners also are adequately trained to use the dogs as guides.

Right to Organize: The Council secured an amendment to the Government Code to provide that no state, city or county officer or employee who is concerned with the administration of any program for the blind, aged, or disabled shall coerce any such person from joining any organization of the blind, aged, or disabled. The Council also secured enactment of the following:

Certificate as Registered Social Worker: A section of the Business and Professions Code to provide that no blind person shall be denied admission to any school of social work, training, or admission to any examination, or denied a certificate as a registered social worker because he is blind.

Chiropractic License for the Blind: A section of the Business and Professions Code provides that no blind person shall be denied the right to take any examination given by such school or college or denied a diploma or certificate of graduation or a degree or denied admission into any examination for a state license or denied a regular license to practice chiropractic on the ground he is blind.

Civil Service for the Blind: A section of the Government Code provides that blind persons shall not be discriminated against for civil service examinations or employment unless

normal eyesight is indispensable to do the physical acts to be performed.

Clothing Expenses of Blind Pupils: Sections of the Education Code provide that expenditures for pupils of the California School for the Blind which are not reimbursable by the parent—clothing, transportation, dental or eye care, operations and hospital, constitute a legal charge against the county of residence.

Coordinating Council on State Programs for the Blind: Sections of the Welfare and Institutions Code establish such a council composed of the Directors of the State Departments of Education, Rehabilitation, Social Welfare, and Public Health, and outline the duties of the Council, which are to coordinate the work of state agencies serving the blind and to report annually to the Legislature concerning any improvements needed in such services.

Eye Banks: A section of the Health and Safety Code provides that a person may direct disposition of parts of his body to an institution and that such instructions shall immediately be carried out. Similarly, a section of the Probate Code provides that a person may dispose of his eyes to an eye bank, to any teaching institution, licensed hospital, or other like facility.

Guide Dogs at Vending Stands: A section of the Government Code allows blind persons authorized to operate vending stands to keep their guide dogs with them while operating the stand.

Income Tax Exemption: The Revenue and Taxation Code has a section which provides an additional income tax exemption of \$500 for any taxpayer or his spouse who is legally blind within the definition of blindness.

Second Injury Law: Sections were added to the Labor Code which define terms of compensation for permanent injury following previous disability or impairment; it also defines circumstances for additional compensation if combined injuries result in seventy percent permanent disability.

Teacher Certificates: A section of the Education Code provides that no person otherwise qualified shall be denied teaching credentials because he is partially or totally blind.

Training of Social Welfare Workers of the Blind: The Education Code was amended to provide that the California School for the Blind may give special social services classes for the training of social welfare workers of the blind.

Transportation Rates for the Blind: A section of the Public Utilities Code provides that blind persons may be granted free transportation on public carriers within any city or may be permitted to travel on any common carriers within the state without charge. This section sets the fare at a reduced rate when the blind person is accompanied by a guide.



Visiting Teacher for Blind Babies: A section of the Education Code creates the position of Visiting Teacher for Blind Preschool Children to assist and instruct the parents of such blind children and babies in care and training.

Vocational Training of Blind Pupils: A section of the Education Code provides for vocational training at the California School for the Blind to equip students to engage in occupations from which they might become self-supporting.

Voting by the Blind: A section of the Election Code permits assistance by not more than two persons in marking the ballot of physically handicapped persons unable to do so for themselves.

Model White Cane Law: Sections of the Civil Code give blind and other physically disabled persons the same right as the able-bodied to the full and free use of the streets and to all public places; to the full and equal access to all places of public accommodation; and to participate fully in the social and economic life of the State. Sections of the Government Code declare it the policy of the State that blind and other physically disabled persons shall be employed in the service of the State and its political subdivisions, in public schools, and in all other employment supported in whole or in part by public funds on the same terms as the able-bodied. Sections of the Vehicle Code provide that a blind person who is carrying a white cane shall have the right-of-way with a penalty for motorists who fail to yield same, and that only a blind or partially blind person shall carry a white cane.

## A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN

The most remarkable political campaign ever waged by an organization of blind persons occurred in California in 1949 when the California Council of the Blind spearheaded a statewide effort to induce the electorate to repeal Article XXV of Amendment to the State Constitution. It all began when an organization of the aged called the Citizens Committee for Old Age Pensions, led by a George McLain, succeeded in amending the State Constitution at the General Election in November, 1948 by placing a pension scheme in the Constitution. This amendment carried by a scant majority of 37,292 votes and did the following: Named the secretary of the Citizens Committee for Old Age Pensions, Myrtle Williams, as Director of the State Department of Social Welfare; abolished the independent State Social Welfare Board; placed a virtual constitutional lien against all moneys in the State Treasury to pay the costs of welfare; gave the all-powerful State Director of Social Welfare the right to issue all rules and regulations with no check on his acts by either the Legislature or the Governor; and provided for direct State administration of Aid to Needy Blind and Old Age Security.

This was too much for the Council, especially since it felt that the Citizens Committee for Old Age Pensions had sold its pension measure to the voters by representing the blind as helpless, incompetent objects of relief. About 1943 the Committee had tried to add appeal to its pension-promotion plans by alleging that it represented the blind of the State as well as the aged. At that time it circulated a pamphlet containing a picture of an extremely helpless-looking blind person, captioned, "Who will wash my face this morning?" Thus the Committee for Old Age Pensions totally misunderstood the problems of the blind, and the Council sternly rebuffed all of its overtures to pose as their leader as well as the leader of the aged ever since that time.

Keeping the administration of aid to the blind separated from the administration of aid to the aged and aid to other disadvantaged groups had long been one of the primary objectives of the Council. "The blind need rehabilitation and opportunity; the aged need security", said Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, who headed the Council's campaign to repeal Article XXV. Lumping together the administration of aid to both (as the McLain measure did) put the potentially productive blind in the category of helpless recipients of support, with little or no opportunity to become confident, contributing members of the community. This was one of the main reasons for the Council's sponsorship of Proposition No. 2 (the ballot measure which would repeal Article XXV).

The voters were told that the officers and members of the Council had been vitally interested in honest, progressive social welfare measures since the establishment of the Council in 1934. They had worked with many groups and individuals during the preceding fifteen years to secure such legislative advances, and to defeat retrogressive proposals. There had been times when the Council had not agreed fully with the policies of groups and individuals with which it had worked but in those instances it had first determined whether those groups and individuals would deal honestly with the Council or would attempt to use the Council for their own selfish purposes. The Council hoped it had been put to the same

test by groups and individuals whose support it had sought.

The Council further pointed out that those who work in favor of social welfare measures know that the road is often a rocky one and that it is easy to substitute expediency for a course charted by honest adherence to methods which will bring lasting progress and an increasingly democratic administrative structure for social welfare agencies. The Council believed it had always followed the latter course.

The Council reminded the voters that in 1943 the McClain organization had sought the support of the Council. After an investigation the Council denied that group the cooperation it sought. At that time the Council stated that, although it was an organization composed entirely of blind people and for that reason was interested primarily in the problems of the blind, it was also concerned with all social welfare problems and would do all that it could to further the aims of any organization in the State or nation which had a democratically chosen leadership and a sound social welfare program.

During the first part of September 1948, the officers of the Council by mail polled all of the then 35 Council member delegates to determine their position on Proposition No. 4, the McLain Pension Measure. These 35 Council member delegates made up the governing body of the Council. They were elected to their positions by the various organizations affiliated with the Council. They voted unanimously to oppose Proposition No. 4.

In October 1948, the delegates to the regular semi-annual convention of the Council unanimously ratified this decision.

During the campaign leading up to the November General Election the Council worked intensively against Proposition No. 4.

In December, after Proposition No. 4 became law, upon authorization of the Executive Committee of the Council, Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, Executive Vice President of the Council and a nationally known specialist in constitutional law, drafted an initiative petition to repeal proposition No. 4, while retaining the increased maximum payment to aged and blind persons.

This repeal initiative was presented at a special statewide convention of the Council which was held on January 4, 1949, where it was unanimously approved.

At this January 4th special convention the officers of the Council invited representatives of a large number of organizations in the State to meet with them and, it was hoped, to cooperate with them in securing repeal of Williams and the McLain Pension Measure. Organizations invited to attend included every major women's group, welfare organizations, all labor groups, the principal business organizations, farm associations and others. An attempt was made to get a gathering fully representative of the voters of the State.



During the months between January and May the following things were done:

1. The repeal initiative petition was filed with the Secretary of State for titling.
2. The Committee for Sound Pension Aid was formed by the Council to act as the general campaign committee in favor of the repeal initiative.
3. The repeal initiative petition was circulated and more than 284,000 signatures of California registered voters were secured.
4. In April these repeal petitions bearing the signatures were filed with the Secretary of State, giving the initiative a place on the election ballot.
5. In May and June the Council successfully contested McLain's attempts to keep Proposition No. 2 off the ballot. The State Supreme Court declared itself unanimously in favor of the legality of the Council's petition.
6. As a result of the meeting to which the Council invited every possible statewide organization, many of those groups joined the repeal initiative campaign.

At the time of the campaign to repeal Article XXV of the Constitution, Dr. Newel Perry, the Founder of the Council and still its President, was 75 years of age. The Council, therefore, selected Dr. Jacobus tenBroek to lead the statewide campaign. Dr. tenBroek of Berkeley was Executive Vice President of the Council, 38 years of age; he was a Professor at the University of California and a specialist in constitutional law, and by far the ablest person ever to be associated with the Council. He was a graduate of the California School for the Blind.

The then Governor of California (and later to become a most distinguished Chief Justice of the United States) Earl Warren, called a Special Election to be held on November 8, 1949. The Council's Proposition No. 2 on the ballot was overwhelmingly approved by the voters, repealing the McLain Pension Scheme. The majority in favor of the proposition was 408,155. Thus ended this remarkable political campaign.

However, before the campaign was successfully concluded, the Council under the leadership of Dr. tenBroek pulled together a vast statewide organization of groups and forces--many of which were otherwise not mutually congenial--which resulted in the resounding victory at the polls. tenBroek actually welded together one of the strangest and most remarkable coalition of forces ever effected in the State--a coalition of business groups, church groups, welfare groups, women's clubs, civic organizations, and farm groups. The State Chamber of Commerce and Farm Bureau Federation were joined together with the California Conference of Social Welfare, the League of Women Voters, and the Council for Jewish Women--all marching under the proud banner of the California Council of the Blind.

Bringing this organization into being and directing its efforts during the campaign was a

political, organizational, and administrative achievement of no mean proportions. Certainly the people of California will owe a great debt to the Council for a very long time for its leadership in restoring a sound public assistance program in the State.

## LEADERS OF THE COUNCIL

Dr. Newel Perry, the Founder of both the California Council of the Blind, and its predecessor, the California Alumni Association of Self-Supporting Blind, led the organized blind movement in this State for some sixty-five years. In terms of his and other personalities who played prominent roles in the growth of the movement, the following individuals must be mentioned in some detail, realizing that there are many others who have labored mightily for the cause and who are not mentioned here:

### Newel Perry

Losing his sight at the age of eight, Dr. Perry found himself fatherless, homeless, penniless and blind on his tenth birthday. His only assets were a brilliant mind and an unconquerable determination to win an education. These proved sufficient. In 1883 he entered the California School for the Blind where he spent several happy years. Upon his graduation from Berkeley High School, Dr. Perry entered the University of California, taking the degree of Ph.B in 1896, and also being awarded a fellowship in the Department of Mathematics. The following year he was appointed Assistant in Mathematics; in 1899 he was elected a member of the Academic Senate of the University and promoted to the position of Instructor in Mathematics. After three years of study in Europe, during which time he obtained the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics from the University of Munich, Dr. Perry returned to the United States. During the ten years Dr. Perry spent in New York City, from 1902 to 1912, he vainly sought a position as a university teacher, having had to support himself most precariously with coaching jobs. In 1912 Dr. Perry was appointed Director of Advanced Studies at the California School for the Blind. In 1934 he was elected the first President of the California Council of the Blind and served in that capacity until 1953.

After his return from Europe at the beginning of the present century, Dr. Perry began the distinguished work which has done so much to advance the welfare of the blind of our country. To open up greater educational opportunities for his fellow blind, Dr. Perry succeeded in having the New York Legislature pass a bill in 1907 which appropriated funds to pay readers for blind college students. New York's example was followed by other States. The problem of giving the blind gainful employment remains largely unsolved.

The blind men and women of California and of the Nation have, in a very real sense, been the beneficiaries of Dr. Newel Perry's lifetime of unceasing effort in their behalf.

Dr. Perry died in 1961. At a Memorial Convocation, held at the California School for the Blind in Berkeley on March 25, 1961, Jacobus tenBroek delivered the address entitled "Newel Perry—Teacher of Youth and Leader of Men". This sensitive, perceptive tribute gives such an insight into the contributions of Dr. Newel Perry- and into the character of his most distinguished student—that it must be given in full.



"I come before you today--indeed we are all gathered here--to discharge a public duty and to honor a private debt. Newel Perry was a public figure. To us, he was also a personal friend. We can appraise his public contribution. We can only acknowledge our private obligation and personal attachment. We can detail his public record, define his influential role, itemize his accomplishments, recount his deeds, enumerate his statutes, specify his doctrines, disentangle the elements of his social philosophy, identify the general and the institutional fruits of his life's work, analyze and psychoanalyze the personality traits that made him a leader. Upon the life we shared, we can only dwell in memory, sifting through the loose meshes of the mind the hours, the days, the nights, the months, the years of our common experience; the fears, the travails, the aspirations, the laughter that were ours together.

"We were his students, his family, his intimates, his comrades on a thousand battlefronts of a social movement. We slept in his house, ate at his table, learned geometry at his desk, walked the streets interminably by his side, moved forward on the strength of his optimism and confidence.

"The boundless devotion to him of his wife Lillie (to whom he was married from 1912 until her death in 1935) spilled over onto us to balm our institution-starved spirits, to lighten with gentle affection the bewilderment of our eccentricity and the unnatural confinement of our segregation. Upon a later generation of us, after the death of Lillie the same bounty was conferred in her turn by his sister Emma Burnham, who lived with Doctor during the last 21 years of his life.

"As a forward youngster of 12, who made so bold as to address him as "Doc," I was once thrown out of a class by Doctor with such a lecture as still rings in my ears. As a somewhat older youngster, still forward but now also bored by the slow pace and the unimaginative techniques of high school, I was expelled by him altogether for incorrigible recalcitrance. Eventually, despite these unpromising beginnings, I did graduate from high school. With plenty of ambition but no money, I prepared to enter the University. At that point I was denied state aid to the blind, a program then newly instituted as a result of Doctor's efforts in sponsoring a constitutional amendment and a comprehensive statute. The reason was not that my need was not great. It was that I intended to pursue a higher education while I was being supported by the state. That was too much for the administrative officials. Almost without discussion, Doctor immediately filled the gap. Just as Warring Wilkinson had earlier done for him, he supplied me with tuition and living expenses out of his own pocket for a semester while we all fought to reverse the decision of the state aid officials.

"It was ever thus with Doctor. The key to his great influence with blind students was, first of all, the fact that he was blind and therefore understood their problems; and second, that he believed in them and made his faith manifest. He provided the only sure foundation of true rapport: knowledge on our part that he was genuinely interested in our welfare.

"Aside from these immediate personal benefactions, there were three habits of life--one

might almost say three elements of personality--which I formed out of his teaching and example when I was an adolescent in his charge. First: an attitude towards my blindness, a conception that it is basically unimportant in the important affairs of life. A physical nuisance, yes! A topic of unembarrassed conversation, a subject of loud questions by small children in the street as you pass, certainly. But not something which shapes one's nature, which determines his career, which affects his usefulness or happiness. Second: a basic assumption that sighted people generally have boundless good will towards the blind and an utterly false conception of the consequences of blindness. It is their misconception about its nature which creates the social and economic handicap of blindness. Third: public activity as a rule of life, a sense of responsibility to exert personal effort to improve the lot of others. While I was still a lad in my teens, I was attending meetings and doing work that Doctor assigned me in the blind movement. He was a social reformer. He made me one too. Through participation with him, these attitudes and practices became habits of my life. So deeply instilled were they that they have remained ever after an almost automatic behavioral pattern--potent and often governing factors in my outlook and activity. Mature reflection in later years could only confirm through reason what his influence had so surely wrought in my youth.

"It is altogether fitting that we should hold this memorial convocation at the California School for the Blind. It was here that Newel Perry came in 1883 as a ten-year-old boy--penniless, blind, his father dead, his home dissolved. Two years earlier, he had lost his sight and nearly his life as a result of a case of poison oak which caused his eyeballs to swell until they burst and which held him in a coma for a month. It was here at the School that Warring Wilkinson first met and took an interest in him, laying the basis for future years of intimate relationship and mutual endeavor. Warring Wilkinson was the first principal of the California State School for the Deaf and the Blind. He served in that capacity for 44 years, from 1865 to 1909. With his characteristic interest in his charges, he soon saw young Newel's full potentiality. He sent him from here to Berkeley High School to complete his secondary education. It was he who overcame the numerous obstacles to this arrangement, so fruitful in its understanding of education and of the needs of the blind. Newel continued to live here at the School while he attended the University of California from 1892 to 1896. Again admission had to be secured over strong resistance. Again Wilkinson was the pathfinder: Newel his willing and anxious instrument. Wilkinson's role in Newel's life as a youth can hardly be overestimated: father, teacher, guide, supporter--in Newel's own words, 'dear Governor'.

"As this institution was not only the school but the home of his boyhood and the foundation of his manhood, so 16 years later, in 1912, at the age of 39, Newel Perry returned here to take up his permanent career as a teacher. He remained in that post until 1947--a third of a century. It was here that his life's work was accomplished. It was from this place as a base that he organized and conducted a movement for social reform. It was here that many of us first met him as his students. It was here that his impact upon us first made itself felt. It was here that our lifelong association with him began. How often in these halls have we heard his footsteps? How often in this chamber, his voice? The sound of those footsteps and that voice have now gone from the world as a physical reality. How often



hereafter will they continue to sound in the halls and chambers of our lives!

"In the years between departure from the School in 1896 and return to it in 1912, Newel Perry devoted himself to further education and to the search for an academic job. He took graduate work at the University of California, meanwhile serving successively as an unpaid teaching fellow, a paid assistant and finally as an Instructor in the Department of Mathematics. In 1900, following a general custom of that day, he went to Europe to continue his studies. He did this for a time at the University of Zurich in Switzerland and then at the University of Munich in Germany. From the latter he secured the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics, with Highest Honors, in 1901. He lingered in Europe for a time traveling and writing an article on a mathematical topic which was published in a learned journal. He then returned to the United States in 1902, landing in New York where he was to remain until 1912. He had about \$80 in capital, a first-class and highly specialized education, and all the physical, mental and personal prerequisites for a productive career, save one, visual acuity.

"During this period, he supported himself precariously as a private coach of university mathematics students. He applied himself, also, to the search for a university position. He had begun the process by mail from Europe even before he secured his Ph.D. He now continued the process on the ground in New York. He displayed the most relentless energy. He employed every imaginable technique. He wrote letters in profusion. In 1905, he wrote to 500 institutions of every size and character. He distributed his dissertation and published article. He haunted meetings of mathematicians. He visited his friends in the profession. He enlisted the aid of his teachers. He called on everybody and anybody having the remotest connection with his goal.

"Everywhere, the outcome was the same. Only the form varied. Some expressed astonishment at what he had accomplished. Some expressed interest. One of these seemed genuine—he had a blind brother-in-law who, he said, was a whiz at math. Some showed indifference, now and then masked behind polite phrases. Some said there were no vacancies. Some said his application would be filed for future reference. One said for what—ironically, "as an encouragement to men who labor under disadvantages and who may learn from it how much may be accomplished through resolution and industry." Some averred that he probably could succeed in teaching at somebody else's college. Many said outright that they believed a blind man could not teach mathematics.

"Many of these rejections were, of course, perfectly proper. Many were not. Their authors candidly gave the reason as blindness.

"We know about this period of Newel Perry's life from reports of contemporaries or near contemporaries such as Hugh Buckingham, a student at the School from 1896 to 1900 during Doctor's absence, who has prepared a manuscript about Doctor's boyhood and youth. We know about it from what Doctor told many of us in later years. But we know about it in all its poignancy, desolation and bleakness, from Newel Perry's own intimate accounts written at the time to his old mentor and true friend, Warring Wilkinson. These

accounts, with copies of many of the letters of rejection, have been preserved by the Wilkinson family through the intervening years. In the last two weeks, they have been opened to my inspection by Wilkinson's granddaughter, Florence Richardson Wyckoff, who is here with us today.

"I have dwelt on this period and these experiences for several reasons. They reflect, they accurately portray, a phase of all of our lives as blind people. In fact, thirty-five years later, I personally received identical letters from many of these same institutions. It was almost as if a secretary had been set to copying Doctor's file, only changing the signatures and the name of the addressee. Yet great progress has been made. Many of us are now teaching at colleges and universities around the country and filling many other jobs hitherto closed to us.

"Doctor Perry's reaction to this decade of defeat and privation was remarkable. He did not break. He did not resign. He did not even become embittered. Discouragement, frustration, a sense of wrong and injustice, certainly these; but never collapse. He was not licked. We see in these bitter years of hunger and rejection the source of true knowledge about the real problems of the blind and an ineradicable determination to do something about them. Here was a mainspring of social reform, an ever-flowing motivation to redirect public attitudes and actions toward the blind. To this was added the thrust of an active and restless disposition and the wit to perceive remedies and adapt them to the need.

"Out of these elements of mind, personality and experience were compounded the public career of Newel Perry; and out of these elements also were constructed the programs the initiation of which made that career publicly significant.

"First of all, the distress of poverty must be relieved. The necessities of life must be available. The minimum essentials must be assured. So much in some way had been provided in the Anglo-American system for three centuries before Newel Perry faced near starvation and economic exclusion in New York City. The Elizabethan Poor Laws did it in one way. County direct relief, instituted in California in 1901, did it in another. The almshouse and the county hospital and poor farm did it in still other ways. At the very minimum, it had to be done better. It should be done by a system of cash grants, adequate in amount to maintain standards of eligibility, made generally applicable by state participation and control, and expendable by the recipient through a free exercise of self-management and consumption choice. To bring this about, however, prohibitions in the state constitution would have to be removed by the arduous process of a people's amendment, an organic statute would have to be lobbied through the state legislature, faithful administration would somehow have to be secured. Year-by-year and session-by-session into the indefinite future, the myriad minor corrections and major improvements made necessary by time and disclosed by experience would have to be worked through the legislature and the administration. And so indeed it came to pass in California.

"Secondly, much more had to be done than merely relieve the distress of poverty. Security is a necessity. As an unmixed blessing, however, it is a stultifying concept. An

indispensable ingredient of any welfare system is opportunity. One of the objects of public aid must be to stimulate and enable people to become independent of it. Accordingly, their initiative must not be hemmed in. The means of productive activity must not be withdrawn or denied. Independence of action and self-reliance must be encouraged. Legal liability of relatives must be relaxed so as not to spread poverty, increase dependence and disrupt family life. Economic resources, reasonable amounts of real and personal property must be devotable to plans for self-support instead of being required to be consumed in meeting daily needs. Incentive to earn must be constructed out of retention of the benefits of earning. And this too presently came to pass in California. The new system took cognizance of the need of the blind for adjustments on the social and psychological as well as the physical level. It permitted and encouraged them to strive to render themselves self-supporting. It applied the democratic principle of individual dignity to an underprivileged class of American citizens. It guaranteed them a fair measure of independence and self-respect in the conduct of their lives. The California system, the Newel Perry system, was thus far in advance of its time. It is still envied and emulated throughout the nation.

“Thirdly, the reintegration of the blind into society on a basis of full and equal membership could only be achieved if they had a chance to earn their daily bread as others do in the community. Accordingly, action must be taken to eliminate restrictive barriers and legal discriminations. The main channels of opportunity must be swept clear of artificial and irrational obstructions. The public service, private employment, the common callings, the ordinary trades and occupations, the professions must be rescued from arbitrary exclusions based on blindness when blindness is not a factor bearing on competence and performance. Doctor was a prime mover in securing legal, constitutional and other provisions which: protect the right of the blind to enter a number of professions; forbid arbitrary discriminations against us in the state civil service and in secondary teaching; enable blind college students to pursue their studies with the aid of sighted readers hired by the state; bring the blind in an ever-increasing stream into the colleges and universities of the state and thence into the higher callings.

“These Achievements--legal, social, economic and political--have been the fruits at once of Doctor Perry's leadership and of the collective self-organization of the blind which that leadership engendered. More than any other person, it was Doctor who implanted and nurtured among the blind of California the sense of common cause, the spirit of collaborative effort in seeking solutions to our problems. More than any other person, it was he who taught us that the blind can and must lead the blind and the sighted, too, when dealing with the problems of the blind. More than any other person, it was he who made us aware that to go on unorganized was to remain disorganized, that only through concerted action can the blind hope to convert and enlist the power of government and to defeat the thoughtless tyranny of public prejudice and opportune ignorance.

“Newel Perry was a teacher: a teacher of subject matter and a teacher of men. He taught his specialty of mathematics and taught it very well indeed; but he taught his pupils even better. To be sure, not all the students who came his way during his 35 years on this



campus were wholly inspired by him. His personality was vigorous and his standards rigorous. But for many of us who attended the School during those three and a half decades it was Doctor Perry who furnished the impetus and incentive, the goad and the goal, that would light our later lives and nourish our careers. Our bond with him was not broken when our schooldays ended. We went on to become his comrades and colleagues in the cause which was always his true vocation.

"Newel Perry was, in short, both a teacher of youth and a leader of men. These two roles were not, however, quite separate. For the secret of his success in both of them lay in this: that his teaching was a kind of leadership, and in his social purpose Doctor was thoroughly Socratic. His classroom manner was essentially that of the Platonic dialogue: dialectical, inquiring, insistently logical and incessantly prodding.

"In this Socratic combination also lies, I think, the secret of Doctor's success as the leader of a social movement. Just as in the classroom he taught his students by leading them, so as the pioneer of the organized blind movement he led his followers by teaching them. His power, like that of all leaders, rested in the last analysis upon persuasion. His triumphs, however, were not the product of oratorical or literary skill, although he had a notable gift for trenchant and incisive phrasing, the epigrammatic thrust which distills the essence of a complex issue. His persuasive power was not that of the demagogue but of the pedagogue. And it was not only his followers who learned from him. He educated the general public by his preachment and his example to regard the blind not in the traditional terms of charity and custody but in the realistic terms of normality and equality.

"And most of all, in his role as leader, Newel Perry educated, indoctrinated and persuaded a distinguished group of cohorts to join him in carrying on the struggle and carrying out its goals. Those whom Doctor gathered around him were blind men and women, mostly former students, whose special talents and professional positions uniquely supplemented his.

"Raymond Henderson: by profession an attorney, self-taught, by preoccupation a reformer, with poetry in his soul and literature in his stylus. Born in 1881, he attended this School from 1889 through high school and continued to live here until his graduation from the University of California in 1904. He practiced his profession in Bakersfield, California from his admission to the Bar until his death in 1945. Raymond came to the organized blind movement in his maturity from a long background of experience in other causes. He brought to it a notable array of personal abilities, a high degree of professional skill, a fine spirit of humanity and the enrichment of wide and intensive activity.

"Leslie Schlingheyde: also by profession an attorney, gentle and religious by disposition, practical rather than reflective in frame of mind, with a brilliant academic record and a liberal outlook. He was born in 1893, attended this School from 1906 to 1913, and thus came under Doctor's influence in the year of his graduation. He received a J.D. from the Law School of the University of California in 1920 and from that time until his death in 1957 practiced his profession in Modesto, California, and served the blind



movement all over the state.

“It was Raymond Henderson and Leslie Schlingheyde who were primarily responsible for handling cases in court, for preparing innumerable legal briefs and arguments, for drafting projected bills and constitutional amendments, for continuous legal counsel during the insurgent and formative years. They were in a real sense the legal arm of the organized blind movement.

“Ernest Crowley: again by profession an attorney but distinguished for his service in another area. He kept a law office open in Fairfield-Suisun from the time of his graduation from the University of California Law School in 1923 until his death in 1952. To him, however, the law was only a necessary and not a particularly attractive means of earning a living. His law office was a cover for his real love and active life--the practice of politics. He was born in 1896 and attended this School from 1910 to 1916. He was thus under Doctor's tutelage as a student for four years. His significant contribution was made as a member of the State Legislature from 1928 to 1952. It was he who introduced and skillfully maneuvered through to passage the memorable bills which are now the statutory landmarks of our movement. In a very real sense, he was the legislative spokesman and arm of the movement.

“Perry Sundquist: social worker and public administrator by profession, bringing to his work a sympathetic personality, an unshakable faith in blind people and skillful management of administrative techniques and devices. He was born in 1904 and attended this School from 1918 to 1922. For exactly twenty years now he has been Chief of the Division for the Blind in the State Department of Social Welfare. During those two decades he has translated the principles of the organized blind movement into concrete administrative action, from legislative parchment into practical reality. Under his direction programs for the blind have multiplied and prospered, services have been expanded and their benefits spread. Most important of all, the working philosophy of the movement has been transformed into a working practice. In a very real sense, he has been the effective administrative arm of the movement.

“Through the years this little band grew in numbers and evolved in formal structure. It formed the nucleus of the California Council of the Blind, which came into being in 1934 with Doctor Perry as its first president. For 19 productive years, until his retirement in 1953 at the age of 80, Doctor forged and shaped the Council on the anvil of his own will into an instrument larger and more formidable but essentially similar to the informal group from which it originated.

“Doctor's social vision in the field of blind welfare outdistanced his time and placed him in the advance guard of thought and planning. His liberality on these matters gains, rather than loses in significance when it is placed alongside his broader attitudes toward politics and human affairs; for in matters unrelated to the blind, Doctor was fully an heir of the 19th century, conservative, even reactionary, by nature, often inflexible and not without a touch of old-fashioned nationalist imperialism. When it came to the cause to

which he was most committed, he was far less a Victorian than a Utopian—less a standpatter than a restless progressive in search of new horizons.

“How shall we sum up a man’s life? How capture the essential quality of a human career? How convey the inward meaning, the imponderable and intangible qualities of will and heart and spirit? There are the “vital statistics.” But they are more statistical than vital. All that they can tell us of a man is that he was born, he lived, he loved, he died. For Newel Perry we must amend the litany at least this much: he lived, and he brought new life to many; he loved, and he was beloved; he died, and he will not be forgotten.

“On the day following the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Walter Lippmann wrote some words about him which might also stand as an epitaph to the leader and comrade whom we honor today: ‘The man must die in his appointed time. He must carry away with him the magic of his presence and that personal mastery of affairs which no man, however gifted by nature, can acquire except in the relentless struggle with evil and blind chance. Then comes the proof of whether his work will endure, and the test of how well he led his people. . . . The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on.’ ”

### Jacobus tenBroek

Jacobus (Chick) tenBroek contributed more to Council leadership and over a longer period of time than anyone except Dr. Perry. Chick himself recalled doing legislative and other chores for Dr. Perry while still a teenager. His superb leadership extended over a period of some 40 years. It was his genius that the Council called upon when it had particularly difficult tasks to perform in behalf of the blind of the State, whether it be a legislative hearing in Sacramento on a crucial bill or the organization and leadership of a statewide movement to amend the Constitution.

Born in Alberta, Canada in 1911, the son of a prairie homesteader, Jacobus tenBroek was partially blinded by an accident when he was seven. tenBroek’s parents, who were married in California some twenty years earlier, moved back to that State and enrolled Jacobus in the California School for the Blind in 1918. Two years later Chick lost all remaining sight. At the School in Berkeley he had a great teacher, Dr. Newel Perry, and each was destined to profoundly affect the life of the other. Chick graduated from the University of California with highest honors in 1934.

Pursuing his profession as a teacher and scholar, tenBroek earned three post-graduate degrees in political science and law, with a fourth graduate degree later to come from Harvard. After a year as Brandeis Research Fellow at Harvard Law School, Dr. tenBroek was appointed to the faculty of the Chicago Law School. Two years later, in 1942, he began his teaching career at the University of California which was to last for a quarter of a century. During this period Professor tenBroek published more than 50 articles and monographs—plus

three books—in the fields of welfare, government and law, establishing a reputation as one of the nation's foremost scholars on matters of constitutional law.

In 1934, at the age of 23, young Chick tenBroek joined with his old teacher, Dr. Newel Perry, and others to found the California Council of the Blind. In 1940 this young California professor founded the National Federation of the Blind. Dr. tenBroek's own successful struggle for independence stood in stark contrast to the stifling atmosphere of over-protective shelter, enforced dependency, and foreclosed opportunity which everywhere prevailed among the agencies and institutions for the blind. The worst effect of this prejudice, in his view, was to isolate these sightless "wards" not only from normal society but even from significant association with one another—by depriving them of the means of responsibility for mutual effort and collective self-advancement. In founding the NFB, and serving as its dynamic leader for 23 of its 29 years of existence, tenBroek envisioned a democratic people's movement in which blind men and women would no longer be led but would take the lead themselves in their own cause, and in so doing point the way to a new age of individual independence, and social integration for all blind Americans.

The vision of world federation—of the blind people of all nations, free and united, had long been with Jacobus tenBroek. When the International Federation of the Blind was formed at organizational meetings in Phoenix and New York in 1964, he was elected its first President.

In 1950 tenBroek was appointed by the then Governor of California Earl Warren to fill an unexpired term on the State Social Welfare Board. He was subsequently appointed to three four-year terms. Through his 13 years of service on the Board, and his writings and addresses over more than a quarter of a century, Dr. tenBroek became recognized nationally as one of the most serious and original thinkers in the broad field of public welfare and his work will profoundly affect its course for many years to come.

Jacobus tenBroek died in San Francisco on March 27, 1968.

### Russell Kletzing

Born in Chicago in 1925, Kletzing was totally blinded by retinoblastoma when only a year and a half old. After eight years of primary education at the California School for the Blind in Berkeley, he attended Oakland's University High School, where he was awarded the scholarship cup upon his graduation in 1942. Thereafter he enrolled at the University of California, majoring in chemistry and graduating with honors in 1945 after compiling a brilliant academic record.

While winning the SCAIFE scholarship and election to Phi Beta Kappa in his junior year at college, Russell managed to find time to take a leadership role in various student activities—including varsity debate, membership in Associated Students' Executive Committee, presidency of the Student YMCA, and presidency of the Honor Students



Association.

Immediately following his graduation from the University, Kletzing found employment as a social worker at a wartime relocation center for Japanese-American evacuees, where he remained until the center was closed. He then went on to law school—to the University of Chicago for one year, next, to the University of California's Boalt School of Law where he received his degree in 1949. While still a law student, he published several articles in legal journals, concentrating on labor law and taxation.

In 1950, Kletzing joined the United States Bureau of Reclamation as an attorney, where he remained for the next seven years. Prior to landing this federal job he was the instigator of a case now famous in the annals of the organized blind movement. He successfully passed a civil service examination for the position of attorney, only to find later that officials in Washington had removed his name from the civil service list. Convinced that the only reason for this was that federal officialdom had discovered that he was blind, Kletzing went to the National Federation of the Blind, with whose vigorous backing he made a test case of the issue—the celebrated “Kletzing case” through which the NFB ultimately forced open the doors of civil service employment in various fields formerly barred altogether to blind persons.

In 1959, shortly after his transfer to the California Department of Water Resources, Kletzing was promoted to senior attorney. In this capacity, and later as assistant chief counsel, he has directed the legal negotiation of water supply contracts for his state, and was California's legal representative in negotiations with the federal government leading to construction of the San Luis Water Project, through which state and federal governments have cooperatively pooled their resources to build and run the 450-million dollar enterprise. He has been chief water rights expert for his state agency—protecting the claim to water rights of the giant state water project involving the transportation of great quantities of water for more than 600 miles and the expenditure of more than two billion dollars—and also has had charge of the agency's legal concern with federal legislation and with interstate water compacts and other relationships.

The year 1959, in which Kletzing was named a senior attorney in the state government, also marked a high point in his “avocational” career as a leader of the organized blind. During that year he became first vice president, and subsequently president, of the California Council of the Blind; while the National Federation elected him to its subcommittee on budget and finance.

In January, 1963, Kletzing became Assistant Chief Counsel of the California State Department of Water Resources—the highest civil service rank yet attained by a blind person in California. During the same month he was also presented with the State of California's Award for Superior Accomplishment in recognition of his contribution to the success of the State's complex water resources program.

In 1966 Russell Kletzing received the Newel Perry Award of the National Federation



of the Blind for his outstanding contributions to the progress of his fellow blind. This honor marked the completion of four years in the presidency of the NFB. In 1966, also, he returned to the office of secretary, which he had occupied before becoming president in 1962.

He was president for three years (1959-1962) of the California Council of the Blind, of which he is presently the Executive Secretary and General Counsel. He is also Treasurer of the American Brotherhood for the Blind, and of the International Federation of the Blind.

Russell Kletzing was greatly influenced by Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, whom he admired tremendously. Thus, his past, present, and future contributions to Council leadership--and they are very substantial--are strongly influenced by "the tenBroek experience" which so profoundly affected so many.

### Robert W. Campbell

Bob Campbell was born in California in 1913. He lost the sight of one eye at about the age of 14 years by the explosion of a concussion cap. About a year later he had gone fishing on the ocean near Redondo Beach with a companion and was rowing the boat when the sight suddenly left the other eye. He did not tell his companion that he could not see but merely asked him to row the boat back to shore. He was living with his sister and her husband at Redondo Beach at the time.

He was in the 8th grade of school when he lost the sight of the first eye and a freshman in high school when he lost the sight of the second eye. He immediately quit school because he thought he could not go on. About a month or two later, after talking with friends, he decided he would go to school and listen to some of the classes. He talked with the principal of the school who gave him encouragement to go ahead with his education. The principal told him of a fellow student in college who was blind and also that because he could not see was no reason he should not continue to go to school. He feels that this encouragement on the part of the principal has been a great factor in his life.

He immediately took up typing so that he could type his papers and studied English and history. This was in high school at Redondo Beach. He entered the California School for the Blind in 1929 at about the age of 16 years. After attending two years in this school he went to the University High School in Berkeley from which he graduated in December 1930. He entered the University of California in January 1931, his first thought being to take a prelegal course. He later found he was more interested in the sciences and took up the study of chemistry, zoology and physiology.

Campbell started a cabinet shop and continued in this business for about two years. He had had some wood work training in public school and had taken some further instruction in the School for the Blind. He was interested in this type of work as a hobby.

Bob graduated from the University of California with an A.B. Degree in January 1943,

and decided to take the social welfare curriculum.

Bob's philosophy is "Life as a whole is about what you make it." It is up to the individual to determine about his capacity. One should try everything possible before deciding that his capacity in a given field is inadequate. Keep trying to make an adjustment to life. The loss of sight is not the loss of mental ability. If a thing can be done with visual methods the blind person can use his mental ability to figure out some other way to do the thing.

Bob Campbell was appointed Field Officer at the California School for the Blind when that position was created in 1943. He was well equipped through his own work experience to advise students and graduates of the School on vocational matters, and worked very closely with the School's Director of Advanced Studies and President of the Council, Dr. Newel Perry. When Dr. Perry retired from his position at the School in 1947 he was instrumental in securing the appointment of Bob Campbell as his successor, a position Bob still holds at the School.

In December 1953 Dr. Perry--then 80 years of age--was persuaded that he should retire as President of the Council. For the previous several years his advanced age had greatly impaired his leadership of the Council, yet he was loath to call on any of his "boys" to fill the void on any basis of consistency. When a committee of three of his former students visited Dr. Perry late in 1953 to tactfully suggest that he give up the Council presidency, he made his resignation contingent upon the election of Bob Campbell as his successor. Bob served as President of the Council from December 1953 to March 1959.

### Ernest Crowley

During a heavy rainstorm in Sacramento, a powerline was broken and the electric lights throughout the city went out. The Legislature was in session at the time, and in the Assembly Chamber, the Assemblymen were floundering around in the dark, trying to find their way to the door. In the confusion one of them called out, "Where in the world is Crowley? He knows his way around in the dark. Let him lead us out of here." Crowley did. Ernest Crowley, who was a State Assemblyman from 1928 until his death in 1952, used to cite this incident as proof that there are advantages as well as disadvantages in being blind.

Ernest Crowley was born in Suisun, California, on July 11, 1896. He completed the sixth grade in the Suisun grammar school and during the following summer, when he was 13 years old, he lost his eyesight through a shotgun accident while he was out hunting with other boys his age. A year later, after efforts to restore his sight through treatment had failed, his parents took him to Berkeley to enter him in the California School for the Blind. He had never been away from home before and was terribly homesick, but the other children enrolled there, who thought it was their moral duty to help new students, gave him the encouragement he needed to make the adjustment.

At that time the School for the Blind was not accredited, so in order to get his

diploma, Ernest had to attend the high school at Fairfield. When he first applied for admission, the principal, who had never had a blind student, said he would be glad to have Ernest as a pupil, but he did not know how a blind man could go to school. Ernest replied that he could have readers, but the principal was unimpressed. Ernest wrote to Dr. Newel Perry, his old teacher at the California School for the Blind, and Dr. Perry came to call on the principal of the high school. Dr. Perry, himself blind, made such an impression on the principal that he gave up all objections to entering Ernest Crowley as a student. A year later Ernest graduated and acted as valedictorian for his class.

Ernest's ambition was to study law and with this in mind he entered the University of California in 1921. He knew nothing about the geographic setup in the University, where he was going to board, or how he was going to find his way to class. He went to Berkeley several weeks before the opening of school, and with the help of another blind youth, learned his way around the grounds. By the time the school year began, he was ready to start.

Ernest's parents were skeptical of the scheme their son had to become a lawyer. His mother was more worried about his getting enough to eat than about his education, and his father thought it useless in any case to spend money on educating a blind man. However, they went along with the plan, although reluctantly, and sent Ernest \$40 a month for his expenses. Out of this \$40 he paid \$30 for his room and board; the balance he used for laundry and all other expenses, including taking out his girl. His "girl" later became Mrs. Crowley. She had once lived in Suisun and he had met her there before he started to college. Her mother lived in Berkeley and was a friend of Ernest's mother. When this young woman heard that Ernest was attending school in Berkeley, she took it as a matter of duty to call on him accompanied by her mother. Later she became his reader, and eventually his wife. During the first two years after Ernest opened his law practice in Fairfield, he earned only enough to pay the stenographer and the rent. His wife meanwhile taught school in Sierra County. When business began to pick up, she came to work with him in his office.

In 1928 a friend walked into his office, saying, "This is a Democratic year. I believe we should have a Democratic candidate for the Legislature, and you should be it."

At that time there were 5500 registered Democrats and 7500 registered Republicans in the county. Ernest Crowley had run for the office of Justice of the Peace a few years before and had been defeated. He did not think he had a chance of being elected to the Assembly but decided it would be interesting to try. He conducted what was probably one of the most economical campaigns in history. The cost of filing the necessary papers to become a candidate was \$25. His friend contributed \$10 to this, and through the kindness of a brother-in-law, who was a printer, he got 3500 campaign letters printed. Relatives and friends contributed labor and money for stationery, stamps, and addressing. The primary went off successfully with Ernest Crowley the winner, and when this hurdle was past, his father gave him \$100 as a campaign fund. Out of this he had some cards printed and went from house to house soliciting the support of citizens. He was not able to afford much newspaper publicity but spent a great deal of time meeting people individually and talking



with them. He went to many card parties, taking his Brailled deck with him, and in this way made many new friends.

Ernest Crowley's opponent in this campaign was a wealthy man from one of the best known families in the county who was able to afford a vigorous and energetic campaign. Ernest did not dream that he had a chance against such an adversary. On election night, he went to bed, refusing even to listen to the radio. About midnight the phone rang, and he received the announcement that he had won by 1186 votes. In subsequent years he ran against many different opponents and was repeatedly re-elected.

In spite of his blindness and in spite of the pessimism of people like the high school principal and his own father, Ernest Crowley was able to make a success of his life and serve the people of his state. He believed, and his life exemplified, that the whole world is not lost when sight is lost. To those suffering from the first shock of blindness, he said, "Do not get impatient. You will gradually advance yourself, and eventually you will get along as well as anyone else, only in a different way."

During his years as a student at the California School for the Blind, Ernest Crowley came under the powerful influence of Dr. Perry and became one of Doctor's "boys." In 1928 Dr. Perry took the leadership in circulating an initiative measure which would amend the State Constitution to permit the Legislature to grant aid to blind persons in need. The amendment carried in the General Election of 1928 by the largest majority ever accorded an initiative measure up to that time. Naturally, Dr. Perry turned to his former student and newly-elected member of the State Assembly, Ernest, to introduce the original Aid to the Blind Act. That passed in 1929 and for the next 24 years Crowley was the strong legislative arm of the Council, espousing all of its proposals and personally authoring most of them in the Legislature. The tremendous success of the Council with its many legislative proposals during this quarter of a century was due in large measure to the unfailing support of Ernest Crowley.

#### Anthony G. Mannino

Tony Mannino, now president of the California Council of the Blind, admits that he is not always "purely objective" when it comes to the problems of individual blind persons.

Tony was born in Lockport, New York and worked his way through North Central College, near Chicago. He majored in English and social studies and took education courses qualifying him as a teacher.

He always required some student and teacher help because he could not see what was written on the blackboard, but he could read books until the last semester in college.

On graduation, with an A.B. Degree and a B-plus average, he did practice teaching at a large high school in Aurora, Illinois.



"Those were depression years and even sighted teachers had trouble finding positions, so I went back to Lockport and got a job as shipping clerk in a manufacturing concern which produced brooms and brushes."

Tony stayed with the firm for 17 years, working his way up to superintendent. His parents, brothers and sisters moved to California in 1947, and five years later he followed them.

He was unsuccessful in finding similar work in California and was unwilling to work as a vending stand operator, his only offer from the Department of Rehabilitation. "I always wanted to write," he recalls.

With this in mind, he learned Braille, took a refresher course in typing and entered a short story contest. As second place winner in the contest, he received a scholarship to a 12-week Hollywood writers workshop; the scholarship was extended to three years.

"I met other blind writers and was invited to join the Los Angeles County Club of Adult Blind. Eight months later I was elected president."

The club, under his direction, became Active Blind, Inc., in 1962. Active Blind is a Los Angeles unit, one of 50 chapters, of the California Council of the Blind.

A year later, in 1963, Tony helped to establish REAP (Recreation/Education Adult Program), a self-help program for the blind.

At the REAP center, blind teachers teach blind adults to accept and adjust to their handicap. In addition to classes in Braille reading and writing, in typing and the use of tape recorders, there are classes in self-expression, speech and the dynamics of personality.

The fact that the teachers also are blind is a positive factor in the program, according to Tony.

"We let our students know they are just as intelligent and useful as before, that they have lost only their sight and that this loss can be made up for by learning to do the same things in different ways. Then we try to teach them the alternatives."

Since 1959, Mannino has been executive secretary of the American Brotherhood for the Blind, a charitable and educational foundation which produces Braille reading material and Twin Vision books for blind children and blind parents.

Mannino also is National White Cane Week Chairman for the National Federation of the Blind and an advisor on the board of the Catholic Guild of the Blind.

He gave up one of his positions, the Presidency of Active Blind, when he became president of the California Council January 1, 1967.

Tony Mannino spends much of his term as president on the road keeping in touch with all Council chapters. Still a bachelor, he lives with a sister.

Does he find satisfaction in his work?

"Helping people who need help is very rewarding," he said. "So many blind persons are in real need—in need of medical, economic, employment and counseling help."

"Sometimes I feel lucky to be blind. Because I am, I think I can be truly realistic in assisting other blind persons."

Tony was elected President of the Council in October 1966. During his first two-year term he did a superb job, not only in arranging details for and presiding at the Council's semi-annual conventions, but more importantly in the long haul in such areas as fund-raising, bringing more of the youth into the movement of the organized blind, visiting the existing chapters throughout the State and establishing new ones, and making effective presentations before official bodies to advance the cause of the blind. It was, then, little wonder that on October 6, 1968, Tony was re-elected President of the Council by acclamation for a second two-year term.

### James McGinnis

James McGinnis served as President of the Council from 1962 to 1967. Previously, for two years he was the Chairman of the Council's White Cane Campaign Committee. During his presidency, Jim innovated successful fund-raising activities which has enabled the Council to carry on its effective work in behalf of all of the blind of the State. Jim was also Chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws Revision Committee just prior to assuming the presidency.

Jim studied at the Kansas School for the Blind where he specialized in voice, music and elocution. He was a professional entertainer by the time he was 15. For several years Jim was guitarist in a band and later joined the staff of Radio Station WIBW. In 1948 he moved to California and for the past twenty years, between professional engagements and activities in behalf of the Council, Jim has been in the piano-servicing business.

Since coming to California Jim has been a vital worker for the Council, willingly participating in its many projects. He served as a delegate for the Valley Braille Blazers as well as in other offices, including that of president. For two years he was White Cane Week Campaign Chairman, directing successful campaigns for the Council's treasury. Single-handedly he recruited, organized, and directed a crew of volunteer workers to perform all of the work entailed in assembling and mailing 60,000 letters each year for solicitation of funds. This was work which had previously required months of effort, a great deal of confusion, and many mistakes. Thereafter, Jim's managerial ability was recognized and he was called upon to do more and more work for the Council, participating effectively

in seminars, panel discussions, and legislative hearings.

In his many chores so well done for the Council, Jim McGinnis has revealed an alert and analytical mind coupled with courage and great energy. He has contributed much to the growth of the Council.

### Raymond Henderson

Ray Henderson was a long-time colleague of both Dr. Perry and Dr. tenBroek and was a pioneer in the leadership of the Council from almost its very inception until his death in 1945. Ray Henderson, a California attorney and distinguished advocate of the cause of organized labor as well as of the blind, took the lead in the Council's efforts to secure from the then Social Security Board in Washington a rational interpretation of the Social Security Act as it applied to the blind. He was also the brilliant and effective advocate of the belief that the blind could only solve their problems through their own organization, the Council, and not by merging with those groups representing the aged.

Ray Henderson became Executive Director of the National Federation of the Blind in 1943 and held that position until death stilled his crusading spirit two years later. Something of Henderson's stature and commitment to the organized blind was conveyed in a memorial speech delivered by Dr. tenBroek in 1945:

Of late years, the movement which claimed an ever-increasing portion of Raymond's wakeful hours was that of the blind. He saw in the National Federation all the elements of a cause that he could not resist. He envisioned the National Federation as a people's movement on the part of an underprivileged class of the citizenry.

He believed deeply that the problems of the blind can only be fully understood by the blind themselves and hence that the blind should formulate their own solutions by mutual aid and by unified collective action seek to achieve them.

### Kenneth Jernigan

Ken Jernigan came to California in 1953 and left the State in 1958. During this five-year period, however, Ken's work for and in the Council was action-packed in every phase of the work of the organized blind movement. He was one of the Council's ablest leaders, spending much of his effort in strengthening the organization as well as in working closely with Dr. tenBroek in furthering the goals of the National Federation of the Blind. In 1955 Ken conducted a survey on the employment of the blind as teachers and this formed the background of the Council's later and highly successful effort in this area of economic opportunity. In 1956 Jernigan served as Chairman of the Constitutional Revision Committee which placed all control of the Council in the hands of the delegates from bona fide chapters. Finally, throughout these five years, Ken turned in a brilliant record in



building local organizations of the blind.

In 1953 Jernigan was appointed to the faculty of the State Orientation Center for the Adult Blind in Oakland, where he remained for five years prior to accepting his current position as Director of the Iowa Commission for the Blind. In this capacity he is responsible for the administration of State programs of rehabilitation, home teaching, home industries and various other services to the blind. The magnitude of Jernigan's achievement as a commission head is perhaps best described in a sentence from the citation which accompanied the Newel Perry Award in 1960: "The task of taking on a rehabilitation program which ranked last in the Nation in point of accomplishment, and within two years nearly quadrupling its number of closures while vastly improving its quality, is itself a remarkable feat of creative administration and sheer hard work." Since that date his performance in Iowa and the Nation has greatly surpassed even those levels of accomplishment. He is one of the Nation's most brilliant and successful administrators of programs for the blind.

In his varied and accomplished career, Ken has built an equal national reputation as a leader of the blind through a succession of organizational honors including the presidency of the Tennessee Federation of the Blind, the vice presidency of the National Federation of the Blind—to which he was first elected in 1959 and to which he was successively re-elected until the time of his elevation to the presidency in 1968—and the winning in 1960 of the NFB's Newel Perry Award (given annually to the individual considered by the organization to have made the greatest contribution to the welfare of the blind).

A year after his graduation from the Tennessee Technological University, Jernigan was awarded a master's degree in English from Peabody College at Nashville, where he subsequently completed an additional year of graduate study. In 1949 he received the Captain Charles W. Browne Award, presented by the American Foundation for the Blind each year to the nation's outstanding blind student.

Following his collegiate career, Ken spent four years as a teacher of English at the Tennessee School for the Blind. During this period he became interested in organizational work with the blind, starting with membership in the Nashville chapter of the Tennessee Association for the Blind (later the Tennessee Federation). He was elected to the vice-presidency of the State affiliate in 1950, and to the presidency in 1951.

In June of 1967 at the annual meeting of the American Library Association in San Francisco Jernigan was awarded the Francis Joseph Campbell Award for his outstanding work in the field of library service to the blind. The citation recognized the Iowa library as not only the largest but among the most dynamic and effective in the world.

In the spring of 1968 Jernigan was not only awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities by Coe College in Iowa, but he also received a special citation from the President of the United States for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of the blind. The citation was presented by Harold Russell, Chairman of the President's Committee



on the Employment of the Handicapped, at a special ceremony at a luncheon attended by the Governor of Iowa and over three hundred state, civic, and political leaders. Mr. Russell said: "If a person must be blind, it is better to be blind in Iowa than anywhere else in the nation or in the world. This statement sums up the story of the Iowa Commission for the Blind, and more pertinently of its Director, Kenneth Jernigan. That narrative is much more than a success story. It is the story of high aspiration magnificently accomplished-of an impossible dream become reality."

Ken Jernigan has brought his genius for organizational leadership not only to the three states of Tennessee, California, and Iowa-but to the entire nation through his presidency of the National Federation of the Blind.

### Alfred Gil

Al Gil began his formal education in 1939 at the California School for the Blind and was in the last group that received any tutelage from Dr. Newel Perry. He attended the University of California at Berkeley and it was while at the University that he became acquainted with the Council. He was rather a passive member of the student group of the Council at 'Cal' until he attended his first State Council Convention in 1953 and, in Al's own words, "then I was hooked."

In 1956 Al took a job as a social worker in a county welfare department and helped organize a Council chapter in that county. He became increasingly active in work for the organized blind movement. In 1959 Gil moved to Los Angeles where he started working for the Field Services for Adult Blind of the state agency. He became intensely interested in working with students and, in 1960, Al was appointed Chairman of the Council's Newel Perry Scholarship Committee.

In the early nineteen sixties Al began intensive work for the Council by starting new chapters, often working as part of a team along with Tony Mannino, Jerry Drake and others. Al was elected a Vice President of the Council in 1966 and re-elected in 1968. He has been active in every phase of Council work since then, especially in the field of organizing student groups.

Al Gil sums up his Council activities with this comment: "I have been with the organized blind in good times and in bad. I am most grateful that we had leaders like Dr. Perry and Dr. tenBroek to point out how important it is to have a strong organized blind movement."

### Lawrence Marcelino

Lawrence ('Muzzy') Marcelino's activity in the work of the Council began during his undergraduate days at the University of California in Berkeley. He attended meetings of the Alumni Association of the California School for the Blind and wrote letters in behalf of bills

pending in the State Legislature whenever asked to do so by Dr. Perry.

His active participation in the work of the Alameda County Club of Adult Blind also began in Muzzy's college years. He had found the meetings dull and the membership much older and more passive than he would have liked. But one day, Chick tenBroek caught him between the Library Building and Wheeler Hall on the campus and strongly upbraided him for not going to the club meetings. Muzzy rather enjoyed that episode and assured Chick that he would attend meetings regularly and pitch into the work. And so he did, bringing in other students and having the club zooming. And thus began the career of one of the most dedicated leaders of the Council.

Muzzy's activity in the Alameda County Club of Adult Blind consisted in supporting Dr. Perry's positions on issues, especially on matters pertaining to the Aid to Blind Law, its amendments, implementation and administration. He was very familiar with that law because at the time he was a recipient of Aid to the Blind. Further, during his last semester of attendance at the School for the Blind, he attended a small class given by Dr. Perry after school hours for graduating seniors. Dr. Perry made this select group memorize the entire Aid to Blind Law, section by section, comma by comma. Not only did they memorize the Law, but they argued over the meaning of every phrase and clause. To be sure, this rigorous instruction served not only to teach them the provisions of the Aid Law, but it sharpened them on analysis, the English language, and gave them the history of legal terminology because, as Marcelino learned later in life, Dr. Perry had studied a good deal about English constitutional history.

In 1942 Muzzy moved to San Diego to take a job as a social worker in that county's public welfare department. He became active in the San Diego Braille Club and led a campaign there for the abolition of a visual acuity requirement for the position of Field Worker for the Blind (home teacher). The chief proponent of this requirement was the then Superintendent of the Training Center for the Adult Blind in Oakland. Muzzy and his cohorts stirred up a great deal of opposition to that requirement which was finally discarded by the State Personnel Board.

Muzzy's attendance at the semi-annual conventions of the Council began in 1943 and he has missed only one since then. From the start he sat in on the Committee on Resolutions, later participating actively in the drafting of resolutions. Muzzy has been a most active member of the Resolutions Committee since 1947.

Marcelino spent a great deal of time in 1949, both day and night, in the Council's campaign to repeal the McLain Pension Scheme. He spoke to group meetings, handed out leaflets, and wrote and delivered spot announcements on numerous radio stations in Northern California.

In 1960 Russ Kletzing, then President of the Council, appointed Muzzy Editor of the Council Bulletin, a post which he still holds and in which he has served with distinction. Marcelino has served on the Council's Social Welfare Committee since its inception in 1963.

In the early sixties Muzzy was elected Secretary of the Council after having served on the Executive Committee as a member at large. In 1966 Marcelino was elected Second Vice President of the Council and in 1968 he was elected First Vice President.

After leaving the San Diego County Public Welfare position, Muzzy spent a year as a Rehabilitation and Education Aide for the U.S. War Department at Dibble Hospital in San Mateo, followed by a year as a Training Officer for the Veterans Administration, then twelve years as a Rehabilitation Counselor for the Blind in the State Department of Education. Since 1961 Muzzy has been employed as a broker by the Mutual Fund Associates of San Francisco.

Perhaps Muzzy's greatest contribution to the work of the Council has been in the field of legislation. Since 1960 he has been one of the leading representatives of the Council at legislative sessions in Sacramento, serving without compensation and at great personal sacrifice. During this time he has not only drafted but guided through the Legislature many liberalizing amendments to California's Social Welfare Programs for the Blind. It would be difficult indeed to find a person with more public spirit, more unselfish dedication and zeal for the cause of the blind than Muzzy Marcelino.

#### Allen Jenkins

Allen Jenkins has been the very capable Administrator of the State Orientation Center for the Blind for the past eighteen years. For almost a quarter of a century Allen has been an active and very articulate representative of the ideas and programs of the Council and of the National Federation of the Blind. As Administrator of the State's training center for the adult blind, he has been a potent influence in implementing the movement.

Allen was born in Texas and was blinded at age eight. He graduated as valedictorian of his class from both high school and junior college and finished his University of California bachelor of arts degree with an almost A average. After several years with the State Department of Education as a vocational rehabilitation officer for the blind, he was appointed at the age of 29 to the directorship of the then newly-established Orientation Center.

Allen believes that individuals are attracted to movements by personalities in those movements, and sustain themselves on the principles of the movement only after the involvement has taken place. Movements are made up of men and of principles, and certainly both are indispensable. The attractive leader builds membership more surely and more rapidly than do grand principles by themselves. Allen's introduction to the "Man" began when he met Raymond Henderson in 1941 when he was a freshman at the junior college in Bakersfield. Raymond gave him encouragement in pursuing whatever collegiate goal he desired to pursue, assisted in securing reader services for him, and told him about a "grand old man" named Newel Perry who lived in Berkeley, and about a promising young fellow named Jacobus tenBroek who was at the time, among other things, coaching debating at the University of California. It was Jenkins' interest in debating and his membership on



the Varsity Debating Team at Bakersfield which had occasioned his meeting Raymond, and it was pursuit of this same interest that sharpened his desire to meet Jacobus tenBroek; indeed, it was this interest that made their meeting inevitable when he transferred to Cal as a junior. While at the University, he not only participated in debating, but took other courses from Chick tenBroek, including two special courses. It was through this relationship with them that he came to grasp some of the scope of the problems of the blind and came to some notion as to their extensiveness and basically social character. It was through Chick's direct urging that Allen joined in the movement and that he did so with considerable enthusiasm. Allen's membership in the Alameda County Club of Adult Blind dates back to 1945 and he has actively participated in the movement on the local, state, and national levels ever since. In the years immediately following graduation from college, Allen was privileged to work more closely with Dr. Perry, drafting legislation and arguments in support of it.

Allen's principal contributions to the movement have been in two main areas. Over the years he has had considerable influence in helping to shape the doctrinal posture of both the Council and the Federation. This has been done mostly through continuing analysis of the meaning of blindness, and the things required to find solutions to the problems presented by it. Frequently, Al's discussions in these areas have resulted in formulation of proposals for the appropriate legislative body, or in presenting problems before conventions of the blind, and frequently in the development of policy statements, primarily in the form of resolutions adopted by the organized blind, both at the state and national levels.

The other principal area in which Allen has and continues to contribute significantly to the movement has been in assisting other blind persons in coming to the realization that their problem is not only personal but social, and that an organized effort is the best means available to them for seeking solutions to social problems. It is no accident to note that at meetings of the Council a very high percentage of delegates and affiliate presidents are former students of Al's. With respect to these persons, and others, Allen Jenkins has been largely responsible for bringing them into the movement. He has been a member of the Council's Executive Committee for the past sixteen years and has contributed greatly to the growth of the movement.

### Summary

These, then, have been the principal leaders of the Council over the first thirty-five years. Some of them have served as President, more of them not. If one searched for a common denominator among these diverse individuals it would, of course, be that high degree of public spirit, that dedication to the cause of advancing the welfare of their fellow blind. This dedication was partly gained as inspiration from other blind leaders and partly born from thought applied to their own experiences as blind persons. These men first followed, then led—for by and large the total membership of the Council is imbued with the social reformer's spirit, a fertile ground from which the Council's leaders of tomorrow will come.



This leadership in the Council has been of an extremely high calibre--bold, vigorous and imaginative. True, some of the leaders have moved the cause farther and faster than others, and two of them were giants among men--but all of them were dedicated to the conviction that the only solution to the problems confronting blind persons lay in the self-organization of the blind themselves.

## DIVISION AND RESURGENCE

As previously mentioned, the destinies of the California Council of the Blind were almost inextricably entwined with those of the National Federation of the Blind. A council leader, young Professor Jacobus tenBroek, founded the National Federation in 1940 upon the urging and with the warm support of his old mentor, Dr. Newel Perry. During the decade of the fifties the National Federation of the Blind went through its time of troubles. Paradoxically, this was at the very time of the Federation's most spectacular growth and achievement. There was the external struggle with the forces of agencies for the blind hostile to the independent objectives of the blind themselves; and for a time these were almost matched in severity by a wave of internal dissension which preoccupied the Federation for much of the decade.

The troubles within the national movement were related in part to the troubles without; for at least a few active members came to resent and resist the "hard line" adopted by the Federation toward the agency opposition. Whether by reason of professional association or ties of sympathy, these members dissented from the militant attitude expressed by Dr. tenBroek in a 1957 convention address on the right to organize: "If the course of events is not altered, if these agencies continue in their present path, it may not be too much to say—as one blind man has said recently— that 'either these agencies will ruin the blind or the blind will ruin these agencies'. No struggle can be more intense than the struggle for survival."

A deeper source of cleavage, however, sprang from the very success of the Federation—its rapid rise in affluence and influence. Whereas in the lean years of the movement there had been a dearth of volunteer leaders and office-seekers, during the prosperous fifties aspiring leaders sprang up from all sides—some of whom won national office and responsibility while others found their ambitions frustrated and accordingly felt themselves to be neglected and abused. Reinforcing this source of friction in the movement was a marked difference of personality and temperament among some of the more prominent members—differences which in a few cases became so deep as to be irreconcilable. Finally, added to these feelings of personal grievance were the quite common frustrations and suspicions aroused in many blind persons by virtue of the very real abuses and inequities which are part of the facts of daily life for the blind in a sighted world.

"A house divided against itself cannot stand." So declared the Federation's President in calling upon the organization to end the internal dissension which threatened to wreck its public stature, paralyze its program activities and undo its achievements. The rank and file membership, represented in convention delegations, was reluctant to take strong measures against a minority of its fellows but in the end recognized the necessity and acted firmly. The cost of survival to the Federation was high: the total number of state affiliates was temporarily reduced from 47 to 37, and a number of able members withdrew from the organization.

It was almost inevitable that the internal strife in the National Federation should lead to bitter dissension within the California Council of the Blind- and so it did. The seeds of discord were sown in December 1953 when Dr. Perry insisted on Robert Campbell as his successor to the presidency of the Council. Many members resented this dictation, irrespective of the individual chosen. Also, Campbell was an employee of a State agency for the blind and yet was expected as Council President to represent and vigorously espouse the views of the blind which were often at odds with those of the agencies. The unenviable role of trying to serve two masters proved impossible in the long run. During this time the Council had fallen on days of weakness which resulted in part from Bob Campbell's position in the State Department of Education. Bob was a person with sincerity and with courage. It was too much, however, to expect him continually to put his job on the line in dealing with his superiors as Council President.

Also, the decade of the fifties marked an increase in the tempo of the continuing struggles of the blind with the agencies in California, especially with the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation in the State Department of Education which, the blind of the State felt, was not adequately doing its job of training and placing blind men and women in remunerative employment.

There was a growing feeling amongst the rank and file that the Council's leadership in their struggles with the agencies was vacillating. This unrest persisted and grew for five years and culminated in a heated race for the Council presidency between Bob Campbell and Russ Kletzing in November, 1958. Campbell won by the narrowest of margins but found himself with a newly-elected Executive Committee which was composed predominantly of his opposition. Hence, Campbell resigned the presidency on March 1, 1959, and was succeeded by Russ Kletzing who had been elected First Vice President just four months earlier.

The fact that Bob Campbell was a State employee of an agency for the blind, and thus placed himself as leader of the organized blind movement in what seemed to many to be an untenable position, was not the whole story by any means. For almost five years the Council had limped along under this handicap. Indeed, the climax to the dissension came in the spring and summer of 1958 in the course of the spring convention of the Council and the National Convention of the National Federation of the Blind held in Boston. For a year previous to the Boston convention, certain frustrated leaders in the National Federation began a systematic campaign to discredit the President of the Federation, Dr. tenBroek. The pretext for this effort was the contention that the Federation's President was exercising powers in excess of his constitutional authority, powers which the minority stated belong to the Executive Committee. At the Boston Convention the Federation's administration decided to clarify the issue once and for all by offering to the supreme authority of the movement, the delegates assembled in national Convention, an amendment to the Constitution which would spell out the powers of the President and those of the Executive Committee. This was known as the Card amendment and was adopted at Boston by a two-thirds majority.

Earlier, at the spring convention of the Council held in Oakland, the proposed Card



amendment was at issue. The supporters of the Card amendment in the Council sought unsuccessfully to have the President instructed to vote for the amendment. At this Council convention Bob Campbell stated that he opposed being instructed on how to vote because he wished to hear the debate in Boston and make up his own mind on the merits. At the Boston Convention Campbell voted against the Card amendment even though 19 of the 22 members of the California delegation were in favor of it, and despite the fact that the Council at its recent spring convention in Oakland had adopted as a statement of principle all of the main features of the Card amendment. Campbell also joined the minority faction of the Federation in Boston and beyond.

Thus, it can be seen that the dissension in the Council was in part a direct outgrowth of the strife within the National Federation. Russell Kletzing, a young man of brilliance and energy—and of independent professional position—had the drive and competence to reinvigorate the organized blind movement in California. However, as an aftermath of the intense bitterness which existed at the time between the two factions, the number of affiliated groups in the Council decreased from 44 chapters to 33. Some 4 chapters formed a splinter group called the Associated Blind of California, others dissolved, and still others remained independent county clubs of adult blind.

In July, 1962 Russell Kletzing was elected President of the National Federation of the Blind. In January of that year James McGinnis was elected President of the Council and served with distinction from January 1962 to January 1967. Anthony G. Mannino served as President from 1967 to 1969 and (in October 1968) was elected by acclamation to a second two-year term, 1969-1971.

Today the California Council of the Blind is more vigorous than at any time perhaps in its long and distinguished history. Its membership seems more united than ever before in its determination to advance the welfare of the blind. There are 50 affiliates of the Council and the number is growing. Recovery from those earlier years of dissension has indeed been complete.

And now, what of the future of the California Council of the Blind? If it continues its deep commitment to the purpose of bringing security, equality and opportunity to the blind boys and girls, and men and women of California, the Council will have an even more essential and exciting future than the thirty-five years of its past, extending well beyond the end of this century.

\* \* \* \* \*



## Appendix A

### California Council of the Blind Affiliated Chapters

Active Blind, Inc.  
Alameda County Club of Adult Blind  
Alumni Association of the California School for the Blind  
Associated Blind Club of Tulare County  
Associated Blind Students of Northern California  
Associated Blind Students of Southern Alameda County  
Blind Production Workers Guild of San Diego  
Blind Workers Guild of Los Angeles  
Blind Workers Guild of Northern California  
Capital Association of Blind Students  
CCB, Capital Chapter  
CCB, Colusa-Glenn Chapter  
CCB, East Contra Costa Chapter  
CCB, Fresno Chapter  
CCB, Glendale-Burbank Chapter  
CCB, Golden Gate Chapter  
CCB, Long Beach Chapter  
CCB, Melvin Jones Memorial Association  
CCB, Napa County Club of the Adult Blind  
CCB, Opportunity Work Center Employees Association of Los Angeles  
CCB, Pathfinder Chapter of Los Angeles  
CCB, Pomona-Ontario Area Chapter  
CCB, Riverside County Chapter  
CCB, San Fernando Valley Chapter  
CCB, San Francisco County Chapter  
CCB, San Gabriel Valley Chapter  
CCB, San Mateo County Chapter  
CCB, Silver Gate Chapter  
CCB, Southeast Los Angeles County Chapter  
CCB, Stanislaus County Chapter  
CCB, Ventura County Chapter  
CCB, Yuba-Sutter Chapter  
East Los Angeles Council of the Blind  
Educational Organization of the Blind  
La Vista Club of the Sightless  
Merced County Chapter, CCB  
Northern California Students Division  
Orange County Blind Chapter, CCB  
Orientation Center Alumni Association



Rio Hondo Council of the Blind  
San Diego Braille Club  
San Joaquin County Club of the Adult Blind Chapter  
Santa Barbara County Club of the Blind  
Santa Clara County Club of Adult Blind  
Santa Cruz County Chapter  
Shasta-Tehama-Trinity Chapter  
Solano County Chapter  
Blind Students Union of Southern California  
West Contra Costa Club of the Blind  
West Covina Chapter  
West Los Angeles Chapter  
West Valley Chapter

## Appendix B

### California Statutes Pertaining to the Blind

Following is a reference list of those California statutes pertaining to the blind; most of which were sponsored by the California Council of the Blind:

Aid to the Blind

Welfare and Institutions Code,  
Sections 1 through 10965 and  
12500 through 12850

These sections outline the eligibility requirements for Aid to the Blind and provide for the administration of such aid.

\* \* \* \* \*

Aid to Potentially  
Self-Supporting Blind

Welfare and Institutions Code,  
Sections 1 through 10965 and  
13000 and 13102

These sections outline the eligibility requirements for Aid to Potentially Self-Supporting Blind residents and provide for its administration.

\* \* \* \* \*

California Industries  
for the Blind

Welfare and Institutions Code,  
Sections 18700 through 18708

These sections provide for the establishment of the California Industries for the Blind in Oakland and other cities to provide on-the-job training and experience for blinded persons. Eligibility requirements and method of administration is given.

\* \* \* \* \*

Certificate as Registered  
Social Worker

Business and Professions Code,  
Section 9030

This section provides that no blind person shall be denied admission to any school of social work, training, or admission to any examination, or denied a certificate as a registered social worker because he is blind.

\* \* \* \* \*

Chiropractic License  
for the Blind

Business and Professions Code,  
Section 1000-8.1

Provides that no blind person shall be denied admission into any college or school of chiropractic or denied the right to take any examination given by such school or college or denied a diploma or certificate of graduation or a degree or denied admission into any examination for a state license or denied a regular license to practice chiropractic on the ground he is blind.

\* \* \* \* \*

Civil Service and the  
Blind

Government Code, Section 19701

Blind persons shall not be discriminated against for civil service examinations or employment unless normal eyesight is absolutely indispensable to do the physical acts to be performed.

\* \* \* \* \*

State School for the  
Blind

Education Code, Sections 25751  
and 25905

Provides for California School for the Blind, fixes eligibility requirements, provides for maintenance of pupils and sets forth services offered.

\* \* \* \* \*

Coordinating Council  
on State Programs for  
the Blind

Welfare and Institutions Code,  
Sections 18600 through 18606

These sections establish a Coordinating Council on State Programs for the Blind composed of the directors of the State Department of Education, Social Welfare and Public Health, and outline its activities.

\* \* \* \* \*

Eye Banks

Health and Safety Code,  
Section 7100

Provides that a person may direct disposition of his remains including written provision for disposal of parts of his body, to an institution, university, college, legally licensed hospital, the Department of Public Health, or to any nonprofit blood bank, artery bank, eye bank or other therapeutic service approved by the director of the Department of Public Health. Provides for removal of the structure or organ.

\* \* \* \* \*

Eye Transplanting

Probate Code, Section 20

Provides that a person may (by will) dispose of his eyes to an eye bank, or any other part of his body, to any teaching institution, university, college, licensed hospital, etc.

\* \* \* \* \*

Teacher-Counselors for  
the Adult Blind

Education Code 6209

The Department of Rehabilitation may appoint Teacher-Counselors to assist adult blind persons in their adjustment and orientation to the condition of blindness and teach appropriate techniques of everyday living. Instruction is offered in methods of communication, mobility and homemaking skills.

\* \* \* \* \*

Free Fishing Licenses  
for the Blind

Fish and Game Code, Section 7161

Provide that a free fishing license and two license stamps shall be issued to any blind person who makes application, together with an affidavit of his blindness within the definition. Application should be made to License Section, Department of Fish and Game, 722 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento 95814.

\* \* \* \* \*

Guide Dogs at  
Vending Stands

Government Code, Section 6909

Allow blind persons authorized to operate vending stands to keep their guide dogs with them while operating the stand.

\* \* \* \* \*

Training of Social  
Welfare Workers of  
the Blind at State  
School for the Blind

Education Code, Section 25904

Provides that California School for the Blind may give special social service classes and issue certificates for completion of same.

\* \* \* \* \*



Transportation Rates  
for the Blind Between  
Points in California

Public Utilities Code,  
Section 525, Article 3

This section provides that blind persons may be granted free transportation on public carriers within any city or may be permitted to travel on any common carriers within the State without charge. Sets fare at reduced rate when accompanied by another person as a guide. Free transportation is optional with the various cities and its use is very limited.

\* \* \* \* \*

Vending Stands in  
Public Buildings

Government Code, Sections 6900  
through 6909

These sections provide (1) that properly licensed blind persons may operate vending stands in public buildings; (2) for construction and installation of vending stands; (3) that administration of vending stands be vested in the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation; (4) for licensing and renewal of licenses of operators; (5) describes articles to be sold at vending stands, and (6) allows blind persons authorized to operate vending stands to keep their guide dogs with them while operating stand.

\* \* \* \* \*

Visiting Teachers for Blind  
Babies and Blind Children  
of Pre-school Age

Education Code, Section 25902

Creates the position of a visiting teacher for blind pre-school age children. Duties of this teacher are to include assisting and instructing the parents of such blind children and babies in their care and training, etc.

\* \* \* \* \*

Vocational Training of  
Blind Pupils at State  
School for the Blind

Education Code, Section 25903

Provides for vocational training at the California School for the Blind to equip students to engage in occupations from which they might become self-supporting.

\* \* \* \* \*

Voting by the Blind

Election Code, Section 14423

Permits assistance by not more than two persons in marking the ballot of physically

handicapped person unable to do so himself.

\* \* \* \* \*

Income Tax Exemption for  
the Blind

Revenue and Taxation Code,  
Section 17181

Provides an additional income tax exemption of \$600 for any taxpayer, or his spouse, who is legally blind within the definition of blindness.

\* \* \* \* \*

Kindergarten for  
Blind Children

Education Code, Sections 25901  
through 25905

Establishes a kindergarten at the California School for the Blind and provides for its maintenance.

\* \* \* \* \*

Orientation Centers  
for the Blind

Education Code, Sections 6201  
through 6209

Establishes Orientation Centers for the Blind and provides for administration thereof by Department of Rehabilitation. Also provides for establishment of other centers as necessary. Defines qualifications, program, appointment of the director and his qualifications, etc.

\* \* \* \* \*

Protection of Babies'  
Eyes at Birth

Business and Professions Code,  
Sections 551 through 556

Defines the duty of any physician or attendant and the hospital or maternity home, etc., at birth of a child to administer a prophylactic treatment to a child's eyes for protection of its eyes. Requires a report to the Department of Health of any cases developing ophthalmia neonatorum.

Quarantine of Guide  
Dogs

Health and Safety Code,  
Section 1919

Guide dogs serving a blind master are not to be quarantined in the absence of evidence of exposure to rabies except under certain circumstances.

\* \* \* \* \*

Reader Service for  
Blind College Students

Education Code, Section 10651

Provides that the State Department of Education may provide "readers" to assist blind students matriculating in any approved college or university in the State. Inquiry regarding the readers' fund should be addressed to the California School for the Blind, 3001 Derby Street, Berkeley 94705.

\* \* \* \* \*

Education of  
Physically Handicapped  
Minors

Education Code, Sections 6801  
and 6821

Provides for the education by any school district of physically handicapped children.

\* \* \* \* \*

Second Injury Law

Labor Code, Sections 4750  
through 4755

Defines terms of compensation for permanent injury following previous disability or impairment. Also defines circumstances for additional compensation if combined injuries result in 70% permanent disability.

\* \* \* \* \*

Teacher's Certificates  
for the Blind

Education Code, Section 13125

Provides that no person otherwise qualified shall be denied teachers' credentials or a teaching position because he is partially or totally blind.

\* \* \* \* \*

Guide Dogs in Public Places

Penal Code, Section 643.5

Blind persons and their guide dogs shall not be denied admittance to any hotel, motel, public inn, cafe, elevator, or public conveyance, because of a guide dog. Additional fare because of the dog cannot be charged.

\* \* \* \* \*

Discussion of Legislation

Government Code, Section 8402

No officer or employee of the state, or any county, city and county, city or district, shall, in his official capacity, prevent or attempt to prevent, any discussion of legislation at meetings of aged, blind or disabled persons.

\* \* \* \* \*

Coercion of Aged, Blind or Disabled  
Persons to Join Organizations

Government Code, Section 8403

No officer or employee of the state, or any county, city and county, city or district, shall attempt to coerce or coerce any aged, blind, or disabled person to join or refrain from joining an organization of the aged blind or disabled.

\* \* \* \* \*

Shatter Resistant  
Eyeglasses

Business and Professions Code,  
Sections 525 through 527

Prohibits furnishing of eyeglasses to persons whose sight is limited to one eye that are not resistant to shattering.

\* \* \* \* \*

Model White Cane Law

Part 2.5 of the Civil Code;  
Chapter 11 of the Government  
Code; and Sections 21963 through  
21965 of the Vehicle Code

These sections give blind and other physically disabled persons the same right as the able-bodied to the full and free use of the streets and all public places; to the full and equal access to all places of public accommodation; to participate fully in the social and economic life of the State; to confer upon the blind and other physically disabled persons the right to be employed in the service of the State and its political subdivisions, in public schools, and in all other employment supported in whole or in part by public funds on the same terms as the able-bodied; that blind persons who are carrying white canes shall have the right-of-way with a penalty for motorists who fail to yield same; and that only blind or partially blind persons shall carry a white cane.

\* \* \* \* \*



## Appendix C

### Constitution and Bylaws California Council of the Blind

#### CONSTITUTION

##### ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND.

##### ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to expand the economic opportunities, stimulate the remunerative employment, and promote the general welfare of the Blind of California; and to cooperate with the National Federation of the Blind in promoting the welfare of the blind everywhere.

##### ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

All members of the local groups affiliated with the Council are members of the Council and of the National Federation of the Blind, and have the right to present motions, speak on the floor of the Council, serve on Council committees, and hold Council office; provided that no person shall become or remain a member of the Council or any of its affiliates, who is a member of an organization of the blind which attacks, undermines, or attempts to divide the Council or the National Federation of the Blind, as determined by the Council convention.

Voting shall be done by delegates and not by individual members as such. If any member who is not a delegate shall be elected as a Council officer or a member of the Executive Committee of the Council, he shall by such election become a delegate-at-large for his term of office. This provision shall not be so construed, however, as to diminish the number of delegates otherwise provided for, either in this Constitution or in the Bylaws.

Any blind person who is not within reasonable traveling distance of the meeting place of a Council affiliate and is not eligible for membership in a statewide affiliate or any sighted person may become a member-at-large, with the same rights and duties as other members. Determinations concerning reasonable traveling distance will be made by the president, based on the policies established by the Executive Committee.

##### ARTICLE IV - DELEGATES

The Council shall have delegates to be named by position or source of election in the Bylaws, provided that the number of delegates shall not be changed by more than five (5) at

any one convention. The presently elected delegates-at-large shall serve until December 31, 1962, after which these positions shall cease to exist.

#### ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

There shall be a regular meeting of the Council semi-annually, the time and place to be fixed in advance by the President or by the delegates. The President may call a special meeting of the Council at any time he deems such action to be necessary. At least one-third of the delegates must be present at any business session of the Council to constitute a quorum to transact business.

#### ARTICLE VI- OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

The officers of the Council shall be:

1. A President
2. A First Vice President
3. A Second Vice President
4. A Secretary
5. Treasurer

These officers shall be elected at the regular fall meeting of each even-numbered year and their terms shall commence on the first day of the January following their election. Vacancies in office shall be filled at the convention during which they occur or, if they occur between conventions, at the convention immediately following their occurrence. All Council elections shall be held by roll call vote, unless there is only one nominee, in which case a voice vote may be taken. The duties of each officer shall be those ordinarily associated with his office. The President and Vice Presidents must be blind.

#### ARTICLE VII - COMMITTEES

The Executive Committee of this organization shall consist of the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four additional members, who shall be elected at the same time and in the same manner as the officers. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President, or on written call, signed by three of its other members. The Executive Committee shall advise the President and shall have charge of the affairs of the organization between meetings. Six members of the Executive Committee must be present to constitute a quorum to transact business at any meetings. At least seven members of the Executive Committee must be blind. The President of the Council shall be the Chairman of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may be polled by mail. The President may appoint such other committees as he or the organization may deem advisable.

## ARTICLE VIII - AFFILIATION

The Council shall be an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind and shall furnish to the President of the National Federation of the Blind annually, on or before January 1, a list of the names and addresses of its affiliates and elected officers. A copy of the Constitution of the Council and of all Amendments to the Constitution shall be sent to the President of the National Federation of the Blind.

## ARTICLE IX - AFFILIATED GROUPS

Any organized group desiring to become an affiliate of the Council shall apply for affiliation by submitting to the President of the Council a copy of its Constitution and a list of the names and addresses of its members and elected officers. When the Council, either in Convention assembled or by action of its Executive Committee, shall have approved the application, the Council President shall issue to the applying affiliate a certificate of acceptance. Annually, as provided in the bylaws, each affiliate of the Council shall provide the Council President with a current list of the names and addresses of its members and elected officers. No group shall be accepted as an affiliate and no group shall remain an affiliate unless at least two-thirds of its voting members are blind. The President, the Vice Presidents, the Council delegate and alternate delegate and at least two-thirds of the Executive Committee of an affiliated group must be blind. The Council President shall be an ex officio member of each affiliated group.

When an affiliated group violates its own or the Council's Constitution, the Council President may suspend the group until the next regular Council Convention. Unless reinstated by the President, the Council delegates shall then vote as to whether to expel the group, continue the suspension, or reinstate the group. An affirmative vote by two-thirds of the delegates present and voting shall be required to expel a group. A majority vote shall be sufficient to continue the suspension or for reinstatement.

## ARTICLE X - DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

The funds of this organization shall be deposited in a bank to be chosen by the President and the Treasurer, and the President and the Treasurer shall be bonded in an amount sufficient to cover all funds of the Council. All financial obligations of the Council shall be discharged by check, issued on the written order of the President and signed by the Treasurer.

## ARTICLE XI - BYLAWS

All specific enactments of the Council passed by a majority vote at any Convention shall constitute bylaws of the Council when so designated by the Council.

## ARTICLE XII - SUPREME AUTHORITY

The Council in Convention assembled shall be the Supreme Authority of this organization.



## ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Council by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the delegates who are present and voting, provided that the proposed Amendment shall have been introduced at the preceding regular meeting of the Council and provided that it shall be presented in writing and signed by no fewer than seven delegates.

This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Council by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the delegates who are present and voting, provided that the proposed amendment shall be presented in writing and shall be signed by not fewer than seven delegates and that it shall have been presented to the Council one day prior to the day in which final action is to be taken.

## ARTICLE XIV - PARLIAMENTARY REFERENCE

Any situation not covered by this Constitution by the Bylaws adopted under it shall be governed by the latest edition of Roberts' Rules of Order. The President of the Council may serve as Parliamentarian, or he may appoint another Council member to fill that office.

### CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND, INC. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ADOPTED MAY 5, 1967 RESOLUTION NO. 67-A-8

"THE CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND, INCORPORATED is organized pursuant to the General Non-Profit Corporation Law of the State of California, Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code of the State of California. The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to charitable purposes, and upon liquidation, dissolution or abandonment of the owner, after providing for the debts and obligations thereof, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any private person but will be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code."

## BYLAWS

### ARTICLE I - DELEGATES

SECTION 1. Affiliated Organizations of the Blind. Each of the affiliated organizations of the blind provided for in Article IX of the Constitution shall be entitled to two votes on any matter. An affiliated organization of the blind may have two delegates, or both of its



votes may be cast by one delegate. Every other delegate shall have one vote on any matter.

SECTION 2. Delegates by Position. The following shall be delegates by position and shall have all of the rights of delegates except the right to vote:

1. President, National Federation of the Blind.
2. Chief, Division for the Blind, State Department of Social Welfare.
3. Delegate designated by the American Brotherhood for the Blind.
4. President or delegate designated by the International Federation of the Blind.

SECTION 3. List of Delegates. A list of delegates shall be prepared for each convention.

## ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

In implementation of the membership requirements of Article III of the Constitution, no person shall become or remain a member of the Council or of any of its affiliates while a member of the Associated Blind of California, the American Council of the Blind, or any successor organization.

## ARTICLE III - AFFILIATE STANDARDS

From its inception the California Council of the Blind has dedicated its energies towards the economic, social, and educational betterment of the blind. As the California Council of the Blind has grown and prospered both in prestige and accomplishments, many questions have arisen with respect to its structure, mode of operation, and general internal arrangements.

The California Council of the Blind since its foundation has manifested the aims, hopes and ambitions of the blind as expressed by them through their collective talents, activities, and experience. The incontrovertible fact that the Council is the voice of the blind of California is the unique quality which distinguishes it from other groups having anything to do with the blind.

The California Council of the Blind has grown in a generation from a handful of men and women into an articulate organization championing the right of the blind to have full, first-class citizenship. These outstanding achievements of growth and development are most amply substantiated by the many affiliated chapters throughout the State. The Council's progress is in large measure due to its strict adherence in all its operations to democratic principles and procedures, and to the unity of purpose of the blind. It is for the purpose of insuring the preservation of such practices that the California Council of the Blind in convention assembled in Fresno on October 23, 1960 adopted affiliate standards.

These standards endeavor to bring about a high degree of cohesiveness in the Council, securing for it a unity of action and purpose.

(a) Supreme power is vested in the Convention. Its decisions, programs, and policies, and those of its authorized directors, are binding, and shall not be frustrated or obstructed by an affiliated club. Any affiliate or officer thereof or any Council member that in an official capacity opposes any established Council policy shall warrant disciplinary action in this Council; this rule, however, shall not be construed to limit the right of any person or affiliate to oppose within the Council the adoption of a proposed policy or seek within the Council to change any established policy.

(b) Freedom of expression is one of the cornerstones of the California Council of the Blind. Frank, free, and open discussions ought to characterize all gatherings of Council affiliates. However, cognizant of the special circumstances under which a few chapters operate, special closed meetings may be held provided that the group contemplating such action petitions and obtains approval from the Council President or Executive Committee, informing him or them of the circumstances which require the extraordinary meeting.

(c) The groups affiliated with the Council are of two types: First, there are clubs based upon geographical jurisdiction, such as the many county organizations throughout the state; second, the type of club which is organized along lines of special interest, such as the several alumni associations and occupational groups. Both of these organizational forms are an integral part of the Council and constitute its very heart. It is the intent of the Council to encourage the growth of both types of groups, and to urge them to continue their many useful functions. Therefore, in order to promote individual participation in Council affairs, and to prevent automatic liquidation of some Council Chapters, it shall be mandatory that full membership in one Council affiliate shall not preclude full membership in any other.

(d) In order to facilitate and to insure the success of all Council programs and policies, it is imperative that all Council affiliates cooperate. To secure this objective, every affiliate should make all possible provisions to support the Council's work, and to that end it is recommended that each chapter have the following standing committees: Legislative, fund-raising, and membership.

(e) Every affiliated organization shall hold election of officers at least once in every two years.

#### ARTICLE IV - VOTING

Voting by proxy is not permitted. The delegates from affiliates, the dues of which are in arrears, shall have no vote.

#### ARTICLE V - DUES

The dues to the Council from each affiliate shall be \$2.00 multiplied by the members

of such affiliate, except that no affiliate shall be required to pay dues in excess of \$50.00 per year. Each affiliate shall submit to the President of the Council a complete list of the members of such affiliate as of October 15, or such other date as may be agreed upon between the Council President and the President of an individual club; and such list shall be the basis of determining its annual dues. Annual dues in respect to any affiliate failing to submit its membership list on or before January 1 shall be \$50.00. The Council shall furnish to each affiliate suitable membership cards for distribution to its members. Dues must be paid annually in advance on or before the first day of January of each year.

## ARTICLE VI - TREASURER'S REPORT

At each spring meeting of the Council, the Treasurer shall make a full report of the Council's financial affairs and transactions, and the written report shall be furnished to each delegate.

## ARTICLE VII - RESOLUTIONS

SECTION 1. Resolutions Committee. Prior to each convention the President shall appoint a resolutions committee or committees and designate the chairman or chairmen.

### SECTION 2. Consideration of Resolutions.

(a) Resolutions submitted in writing shall be given numbers when they are received, and the copy received shall be retained in the file of the Council.

(b) Every resolution submitted in writing shall be presented to a regular session of the convention during or before which it was submitted and shall be read unless withdrawn by the member submitting it. The absence of the member (and of the alternate, if the resolution was submitted by an affiliated organization of the blind) that submitted a resolution at the time of its consideration may be considered to be a withdrawal of the resolution.

(c) It shall be the function of the resolutions committee to consider resolutions and to amend, edit, or revise them before presentation to the convention.

(d) Every resolution not withdrawn shall be submitted to the convention with a recommendation of the resolutions committee, which may be, but is not limited to, one of the following: A recommendation for adoption, against adoption, to lay on the table, or for submission without recommendation.

## ARTICLE VIII - NATIONAL CONVENTIONS OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

The delegate and alternate delegate to the national convention of the National Federation of the Blind shall be elected each year at the spring convention; both must be

active members of the Council and must be blind. Reasonable expenses that the delegate and alternate delegate incur in attending Federation conventions shall be paid by the Council.







